



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Annual Town Meeting Report April 2025 – March 2026



**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:



Deputy Clerk: L Bendall

Lydney Town Council

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

27th April 2026

**Annual Town Meeting (Parish Assembly) to be held at
Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney
at 6pm on Wednesday 29th April 2026**

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, 2024/2025, 2025,2026)

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 30th April 2025**
- 3. The Mayor's Report** – to include noting reports from:
 - Council Committees
 - Lydney's Councillors Reports
 - 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.**

**DRAFT - Annual Town Meeting (Parish Assembly)
Held at, Lydney Town Hall, High Street, Lydney**

Wednesday 30th April 2025

Time: 6pm

Present: Lydney Town Council

T Saunders (Mayor), S Cave (6.02pm), C Harris, S Hillier (6.07pm)
R Holmes (Deputy Mayor), S Holmes, M Howard, P Johns, M Jones,
T Lindsay, and E Taylor

Mr M Greenfield – Town Clerk
Mrs L Bendall – Assistant Clerk (Minute Taker)

Present: 18 Residents

Cllr Saunders welcomed all present to the meeting and explained that everyone had access to a copy of the Annual Town Meeting Report 2024/2025.

It was noted that a digital copy of the report is available on the Town Council's website.
<https://lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk/annual-town-reports>

1. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

To note the Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2024 were duly signed at the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 13th May 2024 by the Chairman of the Council (Mayor).

It was noted that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24th April 2024 were signed at the Full Council meeting on 13th May 2024.

It was proposed and seconded that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 24th April 2024 be approved.

Resolved: Majority Approved

3. **THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

The mayor commented that the Annual Town Meeting Reports for 2024/25 were available for residents within the documentation provided, it was noted that reports from Council Committees, Lydney's Councillors, Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust, Lydney Recreation Trust and various community organisations were included.

The mayor thanked the organisations for their contributions to the Annual Town Meeting Report 2024/2025.

4. **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

The mayor reminded residents that unfortunately the council were unable to answer questions on behalf of other organisations including Highways, County Council, Forest of Dean District Council or the Environmental Agency.

- (i) **Sheep** – a resident commented on a recent social media post that the council had posted on who to contact with any sheep issues. One of the contacts details were incorrect and they queried how up to date the council information was.

RESPONSE: Lydney Town Council acknowledges that the initial social media post regarding sheep-related issues included incorrect contact details. These details had been provided to the council by the Forestry England on the same day the post was published. As soon as the error was identified, the post was promptly updated. Forestry England has since been informed that the contact details they supplied were inaccurate.

- (ii) **Speed Cameras on Highfield Road** – concerns were raised again about the lack of signage alerting motorists to the speed limit and the presence of Vehicle Activated Speed (VAS) cameras on Highfield Road. A query was also raised about the possibility of installing a VAS camera that displays actual vehicle speeds.

RESPONSE: Cllr Harris confirmed that there are currently two operational VAS cameras installed on Highfield Road as you enter Lydney. Cllr Harris agreed to raise the suggestion of additional or alternative VAS signage at the next multi-agency Highways meeting.

- (iii) **Traffic Lights on Newerne Bridge** – repair works to Newerne Bridge are not scheduled to begin until July/August 2025. In the meantime, the current traffic light system is causing significant tailbacks during peak times. A query was raised regarding why the bridge has been reduced to a single lane, with the feeling that this may be unnecessary.

RESPONSE: It was reiterated that the traffic light system falls under the responsibility of Highways. While the Town Council has held multiple discussions with Highways regarding the issue, the final decision rests with them. The single-lane restriction remains in place for safety reasons, due to a substantial section of the bridge parapet being missing. It was also noted that space must be maintained for pedestrian access.

- (iv) **Albert Road Junction to Primrose Hill** – concerns raised at the very poor condition of this stretch of road, particularly on the bend before The Mesne.

RESPONSE: The Town Council has raised the matter with Highways, who are fully aware of the issue. It has been confirmed that the road requires full resurfacing, as patch repairs are not viable. Due to the cost of the works, it is currently scheduled within the 2026/27 Highways Budget. However, should funding become available sooner, the works may be brought forward.

COMMENT: A resident shared positive feedback about the *Fix My Street* portal, noting it as an effective way to report issues and receive updates.

<https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

- (v) **Flooding** – a Lakeside resident raised concerns about the ongoing flooding issues, noting that their property remains in a poor condition and likening it to a building site. They also expressed disappointment that no local councillors had visited the site, stating it was the first time they had experienced flooding in 24 years.

RESPONSE: A significant amount of clearance work has been undertaken by Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) on land owned by both GCC and Lydney Town Council. During this work, a completely blocked culvert was discovered and has since been cleared. It is hoped that this action will help reduce the risk of future flooding in the Lakeside area. Residents are advised that the appropriate contact for ongoing concerns is the GCC Flood Risk Officer.

The Town Council continues to host multi-agency meetings to coordinate efforts to mitigate flooding across the area. While there has been an increased dedicated flooding budget, it is allocated across the entire Forest district, and it is not yet known what proportion will be assigned to Lydney.

It was disappointing to hear that no local councillors had visited the site; this feedback will be passed on to the County Councillor for their attention.

- (vi) **Vandalism** – concerns were raised regarding increased antisocial behaviour and vandalism at the former JD Norman site and a nearby bat sanctuary. Reports indicated that individuals appear to be sleeping in the sanctuary and leaving significant amounts of rubbish, which is falling into a culvert, causing blockages and increasing flood risks. The area is extremely dangerous, and ownership of the site is currently unknown. It was noted that the police have been notified.

RESPONSE: The Council has previously worked with the local police to address issues within the bat sanctuary, including clearing rubbish and securing access to the site. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting any further incidents to the police. The Council will also raise the matter again with the local policing team

- (vii) **Highways/Canal** – a resident queried the continued use of tarmac for resurfacing by Highways, expressing concern that it contributes to surface water run-off and localised flooding. They also highlighted that debris, along with items dumped into the brook, causes blockages and increases flood risk. A further query was raised about when the brook and the Lyd would be cleared.

RESPONSE: Lydney Town Council has no authority over the materials used by Highways for road surfacing. Responsibility for the brook and the River Lyd lies with the Environment Agency. These concerns will be passed on at the next Multi-Agency Flood Defence Meeting.

- (viii) **Police Presence** – concerns were raised about the lack of visible police presence in the town, particularly on foot patrols.

RESPONSE: As recently reported in the local press, Gloucestershire Constabulary is reviewing PCSO staffing levels, with a proposed reduction in numbers. The long-term aim is to increase the number of Neighbourhood Officers. The Mayor, Cllr Saunders, has been in discussions with other Town Mayors to express concern over the proposed cuts and the noticeable lack of visible policing. Lydney Town Council maintains a positive working relationship with the local PCSOs and Police Officers, who regularly attend and engage in multi-agency meetings.

- (ix) **Planning Appeal on Primrose Hill** – it was confirmed that a planning appeal hearing has been scheduled following an appeal by developers whose application to build approximately 80 new homes near Primrose Hill was previously refused by the Forest of Dean District Council (FoDDC) Planning Department. A query was raised regarding whether Lydney Town Council would be attending the hearing or submitting further comments.

RESPONSE: Lydney Town Council's Planning & Highways Committee acts as a consultee in the planning process and had strongly objected to the original application on several grounds. The committee will review the current appeal documentation and determine any further actions or submissions as appropriate. Residents are encouraged to submit any new concerns directly to the Planning Inspectorate for consideration during the appeal process.

- (x) **Uneven Paths** – concerns were raised about uneven surfaces along the path around the lake, which has dips causing walkers to divert onto the grass. Additionally, the track over the railway bridge by the river and a well-used path through the churchyard were noted to require resurfacing due to muddy conditions.

RESPONSE: The Council confirmed that these areas will be assessed, and the matter will be discussed at the relevant committee to determine any necessary remedial works and agreed actions.

- (xi) **Council Tax Rebate** – a resident affected by recent flooding queried whether a rebate on their council tax bill could be offered.

RESPONSE: Lydney Town Council expresses sincere sympathy to all residents and businesses impacted by Storm Bert. However, responsibility for setting and administering council tax lies with the Forest of Dean District Council. Any enquiries or rebate requests should be directed to them.

5. CLOSE

Cllr Saunders encouraged residents to visit the stalls situated around the room and to speak to their local councillors to raise any queries and questions.

The meeting closed at 6.31pm.

Mayor's Report

It is both an honour and a privilege to present my annual report as Mayor of Lydney, marking the completion of my fourth year as mayor and my fifth year as a Town Councillor.

Over the past year, I have continued to serve our community with pride, and I remain incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent Lydney and its residents. This role may be seen as a figurehead position, but in reality, it is only made possible through the collective efforts of a dedicated and hardworking team.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my fellow councillors, particularly our Committee Chairs, for their continued commitment, leadership, and support. I am also deeply grateful to our staff team, whose professionalism and resilience underpin everything we achieve as a council.

A special thanks must go to my Deputy Mayor, Councillor Roger Holmes, for his ongoing support, sound advice, and steady presence throughout the year.

While I may stand as Mayor, this is very much a team effort, and I consider myself extremely fortunate to work alongside such a dedicated, supportive, and capable group of individuals.

This year has seen some changes in council membership, with us saying goodbye to a number of councillors while also welcoming new members. It has been a pleasure getting to know our new councillors, and I look forward to continuing to work closely with them in the years ahead.

The past year has presented significant challenges in terms of staffing.

We said farewell to our long-serving Head Groundsman, James Young, who left the council after 26 years of outstanding service. James has made a lasting impact on the grounds and green spaces across Lydney, including those managed in partnership with our trusts. His dedication and the transformation he has overseen during his tenure cannot be overstated. We wish him every success in his new venture.



At the time of writing, we are in the process of recruiting his replacement.

In addition, we have faced a prolonged vacancy within the Town Clerk role, following a period of illness and subsequent departure. This has placed considerable pressure on the team during an already demanding period.

I would like to give particular recognition to our Deputy Clerk, who stepped into the role of Acting Clerk at very short notice. Despite increased workload, staff absences, and ongoing operational pressures, she has ensured the council has continued to function professionally, diligently, and within all legal requirements.

We are incredibly proud of her achievement in obtaining her CiLCA qualification last September, and we are extremely fortunate to have such a committed and capable individual supporting the council during this time.

My thanks go to all staff members who have stepped up, supported one another, and continued to deliver services during these challenging circumstances.

Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP)

We are nearing completion of the revision of our Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Under the leadership of Councillor Pam Johns, Chair of the Regeneration and NDP Working Group, significant progress has been made in bringing this important document to its final stages. It is currently with the Forest of Dean District Council undergoing final checks prior to approval.

Councillor Johns has also joined the Personnel Committee as Chair of the regeneration committee bringing valuable insight and support during a particularly busy period of recruitment.

This has been another exceptionally busy and successful year for community events.

Our annual Lydney Community Event, held in July, was a tremendous success, benefiting from excellent weather, strong attendance, and a fantastic atmosphere. The event featured live music, local traders, community groups, and a variety of attractions, including themed entertainment and performances. We look forward to building on this success with this year's event planned for July.

In addition, we successfully delivered:

Our annual Fireworks Display

The Remembrance Parade



The Christmas Lights Switch-On, including the introduction of our new permanent grotto structure

And Easter event that was bigger than ever this year. The good weather helped bring out more and more families. Some of them they first year in Lydney.

All events were very well attended and supported by local organisations, volunteers, and residents.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those who contribute to making these events possible, including local traders, community groups, volunteers, and partners such as the Royal British Legion (Lydney Branch) for their continued support with Remembrance.

We have also strengthened our collaborations with organisations across the Forest, including Churches Together and other community partners, enhancing the quality and inclusivity of our events throughout the year.

My civic calendar has remained incredibly busy, and while I regret not being able to attend every invitation, it has been a privilege to represent Lydney at a wide range of events.

I have had the pleasure of working with my Mayor's Cadets over the past year, who have been a credit to the town. Their support at civic events and their enthusiasm has been greatly appreciated.

My sincere thanks go to Cadet Sergeant Theodore Hawkrigde – RAF Cadet, Able Cadet Rhys Jones – Sea Cadet, and lance Corporal Addis – Amy Cadet for their dedication and service. It has been a privilege to have them represent Lydney

Highlights this year include attending the High Sheriff's Garden Party at Highnam Court, hosted by Julia Kent MBE. Although the weather unfortunately cut the day short, it was a wonderful opportunity to support charitable causes and experience such a beautiful setting.

We also attended the annual Carol Service at St Mary's Church, where we welcomed the new Vicar, Reverend Nina Summerfield. It has been a pleasure beginning to build a positive working relationship with her, particularly around key community events such as Remembrance.

It has been a pleasure to engage with our local schools over the past year.

I was honoured to visit Severnbanks Primary School to view their proposed expansion plans and speak with their Headteacher about the challenges and opportunities facing a growing school community.

At Primrose Hill Primary School, I attended their first community orchard and wassail event, which celebrated their outdoor space improvements. It was fantastic to see how council-supported grants have contributed to the development of their garden areas, including the addition of a cob oven and planting schemes.

I also look forward to attending Dean Academy to present the Student of the Year Award.

While this year has presented its challenges, particularly around staffing, it has also demonstrated the strength, resilience, and commitment of our council and wider community.

As we move forward, we will continue to focus on:

Strengthening our staffing structure

Delivering high-quality community events

Supporting local organisations and partnerships

Completing and implementing the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Continuing to improve our town's facilities and environment



Local Government Reorganisation remains an ongoing and evolving issue, and one which will have significant implications for Lydney and councils across the district. At present, there is still a great deal of uncertainty around how these changes will ultimately look and how they will impact Town and Parish Councils. The process remains very much in the hands of central government.

We have taken part in the required consultations, ensuring that the views and concerns of Lydney Town Council have been clearly represented. However, at this stage, we must adopt a "wait and see" approach as the proposals develop over the next 18 months.

With the anticipated transition from District Council structures to a Unitary Authority, it is widely recognised that increased responsibilities may fall to Town and Parish Councils. This could include a shift towards more locally delivered services and the potential development of community hub models, replacing some functions traditionally carried out at district level.

As a result, there is an expectation that the role of Town and Parish Councillors will continue to grow, with greater responsibility and workload. Over the coming months and years, it will be essential that we are prepared, adaptable, and ready to respond to these changes, ensuring that we continue to serve our community effectively throughout this period of transition.

In closing, I would like to once again thank everyone who has supported me during my year as Mayor — councillors, staff, volunteers, community groups, and residents.

It has been an honour to serve Lydney, and I remain committed to working hard for our community in the year ahead.



Cllr. Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney,
Chairman of Bathurst Recreation Trust,
Chairman of Lydney Recreation Trust.

Amenities Report

It has been another busy year with plenty of work being done by the committee.

The Christmas parade and lights switch-on was a great success thanks to the organisational skills of my Deputy – Tash Saunders. Prior to the event we received feedback from our contractor that some of the lamp-post lights were no longer viable and so it was decided to purchase 18 new replacements. It was the first year for the new Grotto, which is a permanent building so this significantly reduced the set-up time. I would like to thank the Town Hall for allowing the Grotto to be sited in their car park. The old Grotto is no longer needed and so it has been offered and viewed by the public and a decision will be made at the next committee meeting as to its future.

A Towns Market Officer has been appointed by the Forest of Dean District Council and her post is part funded by the four forest towns. In Lydney she has been active in getting to know the shopkeepers and has purchased SHOP LOCAL IN LYDNEY shopping bags. The council has tried, over many years, to have a weekly market in the town and the new officer has plans in the pipe-line to achieve this.

One of the responsibilities of the committee is to ensure that grass cutting, the maintenance of the council sports pitch's and the planting of flowers is carried out by the grounds team. This team also carry out regular checks on our play equipment, allotments and public seating throughout the town and any problems are reported to the office so that action can be taken where necessary. The council receives numerous compliments about the town and I wish to offer a big thank you to the team for their efforts.

(During the year a tree survey was carried out on all the land that the council has a responsibility for. The result was that three quotes were obtained for tree's identified as needing immediate or urgent works and this was completed as soon as was practicable.) Finally, I would like to thank the committee, it's volunteers, the rest of the council, the office staff, the grounds team and above all my deputy Tash Saunders for her help over the years.

Councillor Sue Holmes
Chair, Amenities



Finance and Scrutiny Report

Finance & Scrutiny Report – Chairs 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

The small element of your overall tax bill which comes our way is based on a Band D property of £225.63 per annum which is an annual increase to £13.63, monthly increase of £1.14, which equates to a weekly increase of £0.26, for 2026/2027.

To offset the increase, the council is using £30,000 of its General Reserves to assist with minimising the impact on local residents.

Grants

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 2025/26:

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 £541,682 General Reserves and £285,712 Earmarked Reserves.

Conclusion

So, we enter 2026/27 in a healthy position despite the uncertainty for the general economy.

Date:	Account:	Payee:	Purpose:	Amount:
16/10/2025	4764 Service Level Agreements	Lydney Community	Service level agreement First	£2,500.00
16/10/2025	4764 Service Level Agreements	Lydney Town Hall Trust	Service level agreement First	£2,500.00
11/03/2026	4764 Service Level Agreements	Lydney Town Hall Trust	Service level agreement	£2,500.00
30/03/2026	4764 Service Level Agreements	Lydney Community	Service level agreement	£2,344.50
04/11/2025	4235 Civic Expenses	Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force	Grant for Banner	£515.57
01/12/2025	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Gloucestershire Army Cadet Force	Grant for Training Equipment	£500.00
04/11/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Listening Post	LTC Grant	£900.00

Date:	Account:	Payee:	Purpose:	Amount:
02/03/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Lydney & District Twinning	Hosting families for biennial visit	£1,000.00
02/03/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Lydney Town Hall Trust	Building improvements	£1,000.00
02/03/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Lydney Cricket Club	Supply and install pedestrian gates	£1,000.00
02/03/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Forest of Dean Swimming Club	Grant to fund swimming course	£375.00
19/03/2026	4765 Free Grants & Donations	Forest Voluntary Action Forum	Sponsorship of the Lydney edition	£700.00
04/12/2025	4769 Youth Grant	Lydney AFC	Grant for Christmas Party	£100.00
30/10/2025	4235 Civic Expenses	Alfie B	Civic Grant	£200.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	NB	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	FApp	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	FPot	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	GO	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	DK	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
14/01/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	Pop	Lydney Christmas Shop Window	£50.00
09/03/2026	4769 Youth Grant	Charlie B	Grant to purchase drum kit	£100.00
09/03/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	Charlie B	Grant to purchase drum kit	£100.00
16/03/2026	4769 Youth Grant	The Friends of Primrose Hill C of	Installation of bicycle and	£300.00
16/03/2026	4235 Civic Expenses	Town Crier	Town Crier honorarium	£300.00

Councillor Rogar Holmes
Chair, Finance & Scrutiny Committee

Burial Committee

The Burial Committee remains dedicated to its primary duties: providing burial space for Lydney residents and maintaining meticulous records of our community's history. As the Lydney Burial ground is projected to reach capacity within the next three to four years, identifying a new site remains our top priority. While our search has faced challenges with unsuitable water tables and land availability, we continue to appeal to planning authorities for 106 money and land allocations in future developments, and are actively researching suitable areas for green burial spaces also.

Recent Infrastructure & Maintenance Successes

We have recently completed several key projects to enhance the cemetery's grounds and ensure the longevity of our facilities:

- **Entrance Restoration:** The gate pillars have been structurally repaired, and the iron gates have been fully refurbished and repainted.
- **Facility Upgrades:** The store shed roof has been repaired to protect our equipment, and we have successfully installed a new "Letters to Heaven" post box, providing a meaningful way for visitors to process their grief.
- **Asset Protection:** To prevent damage during maintenance, metal covers were added to the legs of all memorial benches and painted by the grounds team this spring.

Operational Transition to Section H

We are pleased to report that we have successfully moved operations from section L to the newly opened Section H. This transition has allowed us to add an additional 70 burial plots, significantly extending the current cemetery's lifespan while we continue our search for a permanent new location.

St Mary's Closed Churchyard & Safety Management

The closed churchyard at St Mary's has been at capacity for a number of years, meaning the responsibility for its maintenance has transitioned from the Church to the Council. A primary focus is the condition of several "table top" graves that have fallen into disrepair. Due to the significant weight of these stones, they present potential health and safety issues.

Because many of these are Grade II listed monuments, all work must follow strict heritage guidelines. The Diocese has commissioned a condition report to determine the necessary safety measures. Although this report is still forthcoming—which has temporarily delayed our physical progress—we continue to set aside funds to cover the anticipated repair costs, which are estimated to be approximately £20,000 over the next ten years.

Acknowledgements

I would like to record my sincere thanks to Leanne Gay for her exceptional work in burial administration and her professional coordination with local funeral directors. Finally, my gratitude goes to our Grounds Team, whose hard work ensures the cemetery and the Reflective Garden are maintained to an incredibly high standard.

Councillor Emma Taylor
Chair, Burial Committee

Planning and Highways

I have continued to serve as Chair of the Planning & Highways Committee over the past year.

Lydney Town Council remains a statutory consultee on planning applications submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council. The Committee meets monthly (excluding August) to review applications and submit comments on behalf of the community, ensuring local views are represented within the planning process.

The Committee also continues to receive queries and concerns from residents regarding highways matters, including potholes and road conditions. Whilst responsibility for highways maintenance sits with Gloucestershire County Council, we work closely with County Highways to raise and monitor local issues. Regular meetings are held with Gloucestershire County Council representatives, including our local County Councillor and Highways officers, alongside the Town Clerk. These meetings have proven valuable in progressing works and maintaining communication on key issues affecting the town.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) Review has now been submitted to the Forest of Dean District Council for examination. This marks a significant milestone following the considerable work undertaken by the Steering Group, consultants, and all those involved in the process. Once adopted, the updated NDP will strengthen the Council's ability to influence future development within the town.

The Committee will continue to represent residents' interests in planning matters and work collaboratively with partner authorities to address highways concerns and support the sustainable development of Lydney.

Multi-Agency Flood Defence Stakeholder Group meetings.

These meetings were set up by Lydney Town Council over 10 years ago to encourage residents affected by flooding in the Lakeside area to meet the various Agency representatives to attempt to formulate a 'plan' to look at where issues arose and how to alleviate them.

I took over as Chairman of these meetings when the previous Chairman left Lydney Town Council.

It has brought together many Agencies including, Severn Trent, the EA, FoDDC's flood officer, Joe Baker flood officer for GCC, Nathan Choat highways manager. The devastation in the aftermath of Storm Bert was certainly an eye-opener and brought many Agencies together to look at a solution.

A culvert was discovered by Agencies working together that was hidden on plans when the Lydney bypass was built and was consequently dug out and cleared. It opened up the possibility for the land at East Marsh to be cleared and used as a flood plain. This work at East Marsh has significantly reduced the flood risk to Lydney. Work will continue in this area with collaboration with the EA to maintain the flood alleviation for the town.

Councillor Carol Harris
Chair, Planning & Highways Committee

Head Groundsman Report

The Grounds Team has had another extremely busy and productive year, continuing to keep Lydney's parks, open spaces, cemeteries and public areas clean, tidy and welcoming. We take great pride in our work and always strive to maintain the highest possible standards for residents and visitors alike.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and express our sincere appreciation to James on his new venture, after 26 years of dedicated service with Lydney Town Council, including his role as Head Groundsman. Throughout his years of service, James showed tremendous pride and commitment in making Lydney a beautiful and welcoming place for all to enjoy. His hard work, knowledge and dedication have left a lasting legacy, which the Council and Grounds Team are committed to maintaining and building upon in the years ahead.

The wildflower displays once again received many positive comments from residents and visitors on how attractive they looked throughout the season. We are continuing to work hard to maintain these high standards while also reducing costs and adopting more environmentally friendly methods wherever possible.

Winter Works and Seasonal Maintenance

While the Grounds Team is well known for its hard work during the growing season, the winter months are equally demanding. During the colder, darker and wetter months, the team focuses on a wide range of essential maintenance tasks that often go unseen but are vital in preparing our sites for spring and summer.

This includes clearing weeds and moss from paths and hard surfaces, painting fences, benches and railings, pruning trees and shrubs, and carrying out improvement projects. During periods of severe weather, the team also salts pathways to reduce the risk of ice and responds quickly when sandbags are required. In addition, refurbishment works have been completed to the roof of the petrol shed as part of our ongoing programme of building maintenance.

Lydney Recreation Trust

The team continues to work hard to maintain the Recreation Trust grounds to a high standard. A new gate has been installed between the Recreation Ground and the lake area, allowing for easier access, improved efficiency and reduced travel time for staff and equipment.

We also continue to work closely with the sports clubs to ensure the grounds remain clean and presentable, including regular clearance of geese fouling from playing and public areas.

St Mary's Churchyard and Cemetery

This is an area we care for with great pride and attention to detail. Throughout the growing season, the grass is cut regularly to ensure the grounds remain neat, tidy and respectful at all times. Regular litter picking, leaf clearance and painting works are also carried out as required.

We are pleased to have installed a "Letters to Heaven" post box, providing a thoughtful and meaningful feature for visitors wishing to remember loved ones. We have also introduced a more structured maintenance programme for the care, inspection and upkeep of headstones and memorial areas to ensure the site continues to be maintained to the highest possible standard.

Bathurst Park

Bathurst Park remains the jewel of Lydney for many residents and visitors, and we are proud to maintain the exceptionally high standards for which the park is known.

One of the major projects this year was the pond cleaning programme, which required significant time and effort from the team. We are delighted with the completed results, with the water now looking far cleaner, fresher and greatly improved.

There is also exciting news with the arrival of the Gruffalo Friends, who will soon be joining the original Gruffalo installation. All four characters will be added, creating an even greater attraction for families and visitors.

Further good news for Bathurst Park is that the slide—one of the park’s most loved features—is nearing completion of its maintenance works. We hope to have it fully reopened and ready for use during the summer months.

We are also working closely with the Bowling Club as they prepare to celebrate their 100th anniversary. By working together, we hope to help make this milestone occasion a great success.

Overview

The Grounds Team takes enormous pride in everything we do, and it certainly helps that we genuinely enjoy our work. Weekly, monthly and annual inspections continue to be carried out across all sites to ensure standards remain high and any issues are addressed promptly.

This year we welcomed a new Ford Ranger vehicle to the fleet, now fully branded with Town Council logos to make the team more visible and identifiable to the public. We have also invested in new ride-on mowers to improve efficiency and support the team in maintaining our growing workload.

General maintenance works continue throughout the year, including the management of damaged or dangerous trees following adverse weather, repairs within the skatepark, and maintenance of play equipment as required.

The whole team looks forward to the coming year with enthusiasm, optimism and continued commitment to keeping Lydney looking its very best.



Pete Edwards
Acting Head Gardener

Lydney County Councillor Reports



Dear Members of Lydney Town Council,

I was elected as your County Councillor for the Lydney Division (covering the parishes of Lydney and Aylburton) in May 2025 and have now served for approximately ten months. This report provides a summary of my activities on your behalf at Gloucestershire County Council, together with updates on the key county-level issues affecting our community.

I remain committed to close partnership working with Lydney Town Council and welcome your continued input, feedback and casework referrals.

My Role and Activities:

I represent you at full County Council meetings and on relevant scrutiny and regulatory committees. My work has focused on highways and transport, planning and infrastructure, education, adult social care and community safety.

Since May 2025 I have:

Attended all Full Council meetings and participated in budget scrutiny and service reviews.

Held constituent surgeries, responded to hundreds of enquiries and conducted site visits across Lydney and Aylburton.

I have worked with officers on local highways schemes, planning matters and community concerns, especially flooding and I am actively pursuing improvements in this area.

I have maintained regular liaison with Forest of Dean District Council colleagues, Aylburton Parish Council and local groups.

I have also used my divisional highways allocation to support priority repairs and improvements in the area.

Highways, Transport and Infrastructure

Road conditions, flooding and traffic congestion continue to be issues raised by residents. I have pressed the Highways team for faster response times on potholes, drainage and surface repairs.

Recent and planned works include carriageway resurfacing on Albert Street and sections of Allaston Road (completed earlier in 2026), together with ongoing vegetation clearance and safety works at Albert Street Wall.

I continue to raise the long-standing issues of A48 congestion through Lydney and Aylburton and have supported calls for a cross-border working group with Monmouthshire to explore longer-term solutions.

I also monitor progress on the River Lyd in the Newerne Street area and beyond and have escalated resident reports via Fix My Street and direct officer contact.

The County Council's 2026/27 budget includes an extra £15 million over three years for road safety and maintenance and I will ensure Lydney benefits from this investment.

Planning, Housing and the Neighbourhood Plan

Lydney is a focus for sustainable growth in the Forest of Dean. I am actively involved in ensuring that new housing developments are supported by the necessary county infrastructure (schools, roads and drainage). The updated Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan (LNP2, now looking ahead to 2043) is a vital tool for guiding this growth while protecting our heritage and green spaces. I will continue to, collaboratively work with yourselves and district colleagues to integrate county responsibilities into the plan.

Recent planning appeals and housing allocations have highlighted the importance of timely infrastructure delivery and I will keep pressing for this.

Local Government Reorganisation:

The Government is currently consulting (until late March 2026) on proposals to replace the existing county and district councils with one or two new unitary authorities from 2028.

This is a once in a generation change that I am against as it lessens local influence.

I strongly encourage the Town Council and residents to respond to the consultation so that our local voice is heard and lost.

I am happy to brief members on the options at a future meeting although I am sure that you are no doubt aware.

Education, Health and Community Services

Demand for school places continues to rise with new housing. County Council investment in SEND provision and school expansions is helping, and I monitor forecasts for Lydney primaries and The Dean Academy closely.

On health, I have raised resident concerns about progress with the new integrated health centre on the former Co-op site and will continue to liaise with NHS Gloucestershire for timely delivery. Adult social care and support for vulnerable residents remain a priority amid national pressures.

Budget 2026/27

The County Council approved a £698.4 million budget in February 2026. This includes a modest council-tax rise, supposed continued protection of frontline services and targeted investment in roads, education and care for the most vulnerable. I scrutinised the proposals to ensure best value for Lydney and Aylburton residents.

Looking Ahead:

My priorities for the coming months include:

Securing further local highways investment and flood-resilience measures.

Supporting the successful implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Monitoring the reorganisation consultation and its implications for local services.

Continuing casework and community engagement.

I am always available to discuss any county related matter.

Please contact me directly or raise items through the Town Clerk.

I value the working relationship we have and look forward to many more months of productive collaboration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this report.

Cllr Mark Howard, County Councillor

Lydney Division District Councillor Reports

This has been my twelfth year as a Lydney Councillor, and seventh as District Councillor for Lydney North.

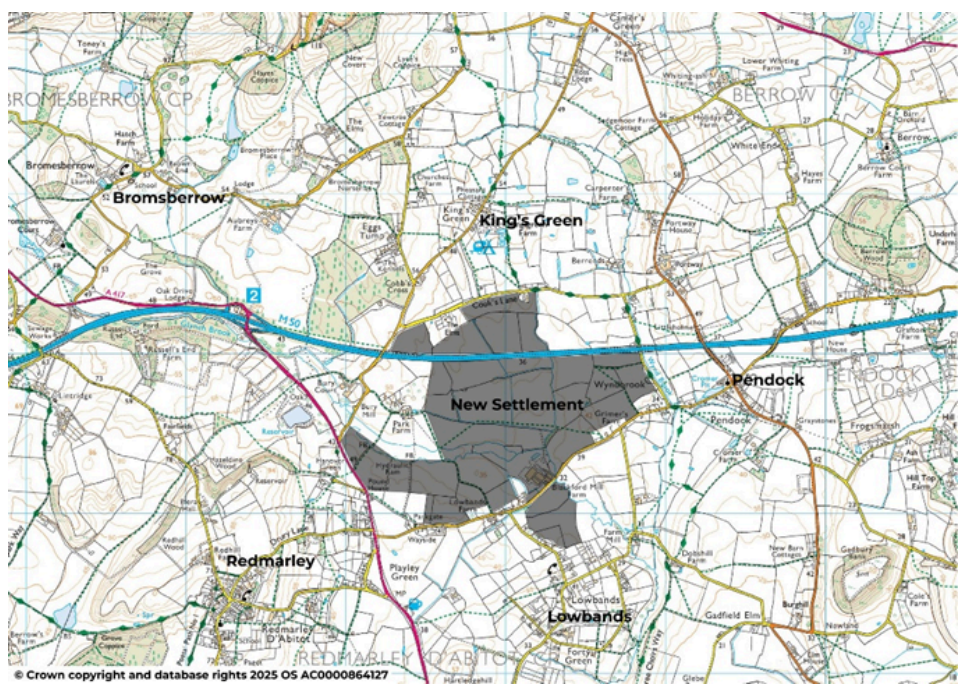
The Forest of Dean District Council has only a short time left in existence. In 2027, elections will be held to a new Authority, which will eventually replace both the District Council and County Council. **Please note: the District Council will not be abolished in 2027. We will continue operating until April 2028. It is highly likely that elections to the District Council will be cancelled next year.**

After April 2028, Gloucestershire will likely be governed by a single unitary authority. One Council covering all six Districts – Forest of Dean, Gloucester, Tewkesbury, Cheltenham, Cotswolds and Stroud. Whilst this may save money, I worry about the effect on Forest of Dean representation. Our District will be one-sixth of the new Council - I sincerely hope our 'voice' is not lost.

Financially, the District Council has again produced a balanced budget this year. However, this has required a small Council Tax increase of £6.34 a year. This was due to a reduction in our funding unfortunately. This minor increase means that no local services have been cut (e.g. bin collections, street wardens, homelessness support etc). I have been Chairman of the Audit Committee for five years, and I follow the District's finances very closely.

Local Plan:

The District Council are currently preparing our "Local Plan", which will determine where new houses are built over the next 20 years. The ruling Green Party have proposed building 3,500 homes at Glynchbrook (near Redmarley – see below).



Many are rightly worried that local roads and GP surgeries cannot handle such a massive volume of houses. Whilst Glynchbrook is in the north of the District, this proposal does affect Lydney – we all use the A48, local healthcare and education services.

I do not believe the Forest's existing infrastructure can support such a concentrated volume of houses at that location. I voted against plans to build houses at Glynchbrook and will continue to do so.

Forest of Dean Biosphere Designation:

The ruling Green Party have proposed designating the Forest of Dean as a **UNESCO Biosphere Reserve**. This title would recognize the Forest as a world-class place for nature and people, potentially attracting more grant funding and tourism.

Some residents however, particularly the Commoners Association, worry this designation will interfere with ancient forestry rights like sheep grazing and free mining. The Council have previously stated that Biosphere designation does not change any local laws and will have no effect on these practices. The final decision regarding whether to apply for this designation will be made by the Cabinet in due course.

The next few years will bring significant changes to how local government works in Gloucestershire. Whether we are discussing new housing sites, environmental projects or local government reorganisation, I remain committed to ensuring that Lydney remains a well-represented part of the Forest of Dean.

Cllr Harry Ives – District Councillor for Lydney North 2019-2028.

After 16 years, including two as Chairman/ Civic Leader representing the Lydney Division on Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) with hindsight, it's been good to "break" which has enabled me to pursue many more activities.

I can only describe the drop in workload as surprising !

It was an honour and a privilege to be subsequently conferred the title of Honorary Alderman of GCC. Alongside my ex-colleague and Chairman Cllr Graham Morgan, we are the two Forest Aldermen.

I remain as a Forest of Dean District Cllr, specifically in the role of Armed Forces Champion, but continuing to question and challenge as required, particularly on Planning, Infrastructure, and Regeneration failings, plus everyday constituency work.

With over 50 years cumulative Local Government representation and experience at all levels I continue to give advice, as and if required.

With the Local Government Review progressing it promises to be an interesting few years.

Best Wishes. Alan

Cllr Alan Prest. FoDDC Lydney East.

Andrew has supported Lydney Town Council with a number of planning application issues.

He has been engaged with ensuring that, where possible, appropriate flood prevention measures are taken for Lydney.

As a district councillor he has continued to help residents who contact him with various concerns.

Andrew is the Rivers Champion at the Forest of Dean District Council. He has successfully steered a motion through the council designed to protect and enhance the water quality of rivers in the district which are threatened by sewage discharges and the run-off from intensive poultry units.

At the district council Cllr McDermid is a member of the Development Management Committee (Planning), as well as the Audit Committee and the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

To contact Cllr McDermid about any district council issue you think he might be able to help you with please contact him on: andrew.mcdermid@fdean.gov.uk

Cllr Andrew McDermid, Forest of Dean District Council, Lydney East ward.

Local Government Reform has made significant demands on the work of the district council over the last year as councillors have sought to ensure the best transition possible from district and county councils to a new Unitary Authority.

Developing a new Local Plan for the Forest of Dean is a major project the district council is currently in the middle of. This includes consulting with town and parish councils and residents, where to allocate more than 12,000 new houses, as required by the Government.

Mark has helped facilitate some of the Natural Flood Management work which has taken place on the higher ground above Lydney and Aylburton. This has seen the creation of hundreds of leaky dams on watercourses above the town which have contributed towards a year in which household flooding has been greatly reduced, in spite of a season of high rainfall.

As a district councillor, Mark is available to be contacted by residents. He has helped people with issues such as planning applications, refuse and recycling collections, fly-tipping, neighbours hedges, street signs and Freedom Leisure. If you think he might be able to help you with a district council issue, please email him on: mark.topping@fdean.gov.uk

Cllr Mark Topping, Forest of Dean District Council, Lydney West & Aylburton ward.

Market Towns Officer



Town Clerks Meeting Report Summary Report of October 2025

During this month my projects have been centred around the preparation of the Shop Local Campaign.

During this month I spent allocated days formulating an up to date business directory of the high street, in conjunction with visits to traders.

This information has now been collated and with the support of a local print company this will manifest itself as a shop local leaflet which local coffee shops, Town Councils and traders can utilise to inform of businesses on the high Street. This is also available on the Town Council website, FoDDC website and will form a starting point if towns want to use as promotional material for events, postal drops and shop local campaigns.

As well as being an objective set for the role, this was requested by trader's on the high streets across all four towns.

August 2025

This month gave the opportunity to expand the introduction / getting to know the towns and build relationships with traders.

Using the opportunity to also make key contacts with other organisations / individuals around the Forest who could assist me in this role.

Examples:

- FVAF – in relation to Forest food hub for joint working looking at local producers.
- Canopy – for individual events / festivals Arts and Literacy
- Community Groups – Candi / Cinderford grows / Sharing Kitchens
- Place architects
- Produce suppliers.

The role allows for one day in each of the market towns, however a recent two-month review with town mayors / representatives have agreed there will be occasions where these days will need to be flexed to allow continuity of Market Towns Officer time during projects or to allow for other meetings to be attended e.g. business groups / Town Council meetings.

I have also used August to build relationships with other teams integrated into the District Council who currently oversee projects across the four market towns, as I am very aware of crossover between teams such as community builders, climate and planning.

I have implemented the meet the trader concept which has been widely shared across all market towns and through the FODDC Communications highlighting traders experience in the market towns this will be a monthly initiative that hopefully will assist with the promotion of successful and diverse business in the towns.

September 2025

This month I have started to look at the “Shop Local” and “Small Business” initiatives / campaigns to support the traders on the high street. This will involve photography and a social media presence up to the 29th November, this will also start a shop local design for each of the market towns which can be used next year for national “trader / high-street” days to increase the local and tourism knowledge of what the four towns can offer.

I have visited parish farmers markets to review the current provision by local producers. Parish markets are under cover and the local model works well for both traders and residents.

For September I am involved with the following:

- **Newent** – Communications / Promotions involving new residents and increased presence using social media. I attended the Town Regeneration Meeting and Business Group to share ideas for promotion of the high street.
- **Coleford** – Forward planner for high Street / town events highlighting local businesses. First Coleford Business Group meeting for traders which was well attended and promoted a desire to work collectively on regeneration opportunities.
- **Cinderford** – Involvement of County / District / Town councillors with the Town Centre plan reviewing current position of high vacant commercial properties in the high street and scope to improve town centre. Cinderford “Civic Pride / Community” group roll out underway. Landscaping quotes for regeneration of the triangle utilising Rural Prosperity Funding currently being reviewed.
- **Lydney** – Introducing concept of Saturday Market following successful residents’ poll – attending local farmers markets to attract local producers.

I have now obtained access to Market Stalls from Taurus Crafts which will need some level of refurbishment. I am meeting the Ross on Wye Markets lead to work collaboratively providing local markets.

This report hopefully highlights the breadth and scope of this role and how the concept of having one point of contact across the four towns will improve the transfer of communication / ideas across the town councils.

I am very happy to share any further details with any person who may be interested in some of the projects currently being undertaken.

Catherine Lines

Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust

As always, it has been another busy and productive year for Bathurst Park Recreation Trust.

Since our last report in April, we have once again delivered a wide range of events, improvements, and ongoing maintenance to ensure the park remains a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

Our annual Community Event, held on [insert date], was a fantastic success. We were fortunate to enjoy good weather, which helped bring the community together for a full day of celebration. The event featured a variety of local organisations, traders, and musicians, offering something for everyone. A particular highlight was the addition of the Red Belly Pirate Productions pirate ship, which proved extremely popular. We are pleased to confirm they will be returning this year. It is always incredible to see so many people come together in a safe, welcoming, and free environment—this remains one of the highlights of the Bathurst Park calendar.

In September, we introduced a new feature to the Sensory Garden—The Gruffalo. This has been a huge success, attracting families and visitors from further afield. Later this year, The Gruffalo will be joined by his friends: the fox, the owl, the snake, and, of course, the mouse, further enhancing this much-loved area of the park.

On 5th November, we hosted our annual Firework Display. This year, we introduced two separate displays: an earlier low-noise display designed to be more inclusive for younger children and those sensitive to loud noise, followed by the traditional display after a short interval. This approach proved very successful, allowing families to enjoy the event in a way that suited their needs. Attendance numbers were once again record-breaking.

It has also been great to see football return to the park after a short break. We have several teams now regularly using the park again. Over the coming year, we are looking to mark out a second pitch. This will allow us to rest and repair the existing pitch, particularly the goalmouths, giving the ground time to recover and improve overall playing conditions.

Throughout the winter months, significant maintenance work has been undertaken across the park. This included work to the ornamental pond, which had, over time, become home to a large number of fish. The pond was originally designed as a lily pond and does not have the filtration or oxygenation systems required to safely support fish. Despite efforts to maintain suitable conditions, including planting and running the fountain continuously during hot weather, this proved unsustainable.

Following expert advice, the fish have been safely rehomed. The pond has since been cleared and restored to its original purpose as an ornamental feature. To install the necessary infrastructure to support fish long-term would cost in excess of £50,000, which is unfortunately beyond the Trust's current means.

A new addition to the park this year has been the installation of CCTV cameras. These have been put in place to help protect the park's assets, it's currently located in the car park, to support the safety and security of all visitors.

Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting developments planned. The former tennis courts are being repurposed into a “Play Town” area. This will include resurfacing and the addition of road markings and themed zones to create a safe space for children to learn to ride bikes and scooters, as well as explore imaginative play areas such as shop fronts. This is an ongoing project which will continue to develop as funding allows, and we are pleased to see an underused space being transformed into a valuable new asset for the community.

Finally, I was honoured to be invited to bowl the first bowl of the season for Lydney Bowling Club, who are celebrating their centenary year. It was a pleasure to meet this year’s team, spend time with them, and mark the occasion by delivering the first bowl to the new golden jack. I wish them every success for the coming season and, of course, for the next hundred years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of grounds team, trustees, and visitors who continue to contribute to the success of Bathurst Park. Your support is invaluable and helps ensure the park remains at the heart of our community.



Cllr. Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney,
Chairman of Bathurst Recreation Trust,

Lydney Recreation Trust

This year marks my first as Chairman of Lydney Recreation Trust, having taken over the role from Pete, who was unfortunately unable to attend the last annual meeting. I initially stepped in as interim Chair and have continued in the role since.

Upon taking on the position in May, one of the most immediate and significant challenges was the high number of geese and the resulting fouling across the site. This was particularly impacting the sports pitches, walkways, skate park, and areas surrounding the lake.

We are limited in the methods available to manage and control the geese population, particularly during nesting season when numbers were at their peak. However, we have taken several practical steps to mitigate the impact. This includes the purchase of specialist cleaning machinery capable of sweeping and clearing fouling from pitches, paths, and other accessible areas. While not suitable for all terrain, it has made a noticeable difference, particularly on the main sports areas.

To further support this, local sports clubs have been given access to the machinery. While our grounds team currently carries out sweeping twice weekly where possible, clubs are able to undertake additional cleaning as needed to maintain their playing areas.

Following advice from wildlife management specialists, we also undertook significant work to the island within the lake. Over time, it had become overgrown and provided an ideal nesting habitat for Canada geese, while discouraging other wildlife species. The island was cleared of scrub and debris earlier this year to make it less attractive for geese and more suitable for a broader range of wildlife.

Due to the nature of the work, this could not be carried out by our own grounds team, as it required specialist equipment and certifications for working on and near water. We therefore appointed an external contractor—an organisation that has previously supported the council with flood defence work—who completed the project efficiently within one week. This work was long overdue and is already helping to rebalance the habitat.

A key area of focus has also been East Marsh, which forms part of the Trust's land on the far side of the bypass towards the station. This land was always intended to function as a floodplain. However, over time, drainage infrastructure including ditches and culverts had not been properly maintained due to unclear ownership.

Following the flooding events of 2024 and early 2025, coordinated work was undertaken by Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire Highways, and the GCC Flood Team to reinstate and restore the drainage systems running through Lakeside, across the Trust land, and into East Marsh. This has proven invaluable. Despite several periods of heavy rainfall and storms since the work was completed, there has been no residential flooding in previously affected areas, particularly around Lakeside. The floodplain is now functioning as intended.

Ongoing maintenance of East Marsh will be carried out periodically, with the Inland Drainage Board now responsible for maintaining the ditches, culverts, and wider drainage infrastructure to ensure effective water management.

Looking ahead, we have a number of exciting developments planned. The former tennis courts are being repurposed into a “Play Town” area. This will include resurfacing and the addition of road markings and themed zones to create a safe space for children to learn to ride bikes and scooters, as well as explore imaginative play areas such as shop fronts. This is an ongoing project which will continue to develop as funding allows, and we are pleased to see an underused space being transformed into a valuable new asset for the community.

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Cllr. Tasha Saunders
Mayor of Lydney,
Chairman of Lydney Recreation Trust.

Lydney Tennis Club



Welcome to Lydney tennis club AGM and thank you to everyone who is joining us this evening. I'd like to start by thanking Ellie for organising tonight's event and to Neil, our quiz master for organising the quiz. I hope you all have an enjoyable evening.

At our last AGM, we congratulated ourselves on a successful year. We had developed an action plan based on members feedback and were Looking to the future with plans to further develop and improve the club.

Unfortunately, a few weeks later, Storm Burt had other ideas, and we found ourselves dealing with another flood - worse than we have experienced before. This was the third flood in five years. It came with little or no warning, leaving the town with very limited time to prepare. We were not alone, other sports clubs, the high street and local homes were badly affected. For us, it was particularly devastating. After working so hard to develop the club and courts to such a high standard we were suddenly back to square one.

However, there is one thing that Storm Burt could not destroy, and that was the resilience and determination of the club. Immediately, the committee and members rose to the challenge and went into action. Everyone pulled together to deal with the immediate issues, making the club safe and salvaging what we could and dealing with the many urgent tasks and phone calls. Once the floodwaters receded and the damage had been assessed, members once again pulled together to begin the major clean up. The local fire service generously gave up their time to help us clean the courts and members spent hours with brushes and hoses to finish the job and get the courts reopened for play.

It's been a challenging year, dealing with insurance claims, applying for grants and arranging contractors to clean the courts and repair the clubhouse. Our Treasurer, Lisa has been an incredible support to me, liaising with insurers and local authorities to ensure the clubhouse repairs could move forward. Caroline did a fantastic job applying for a Sports England flood relief grant, successfully securing over £14,000. Barb organised contractors for the cleaning and repainting of the courts. Everyone has played their part in getting the work done and I would like to extend a huge thank you to the committee for the time and energy you have all given to the club.

Thankfully, we are now almost there. The courts have been professionally cleaned and repainted and look fantastic. The clubhouse is nearing completion and is set to look better than ever. We were also honoured by a Royal visit, and although Princess Ann was clearly more of a rugby fan, she congratulated us on our resilience and strong sense of community.

We do, however, have to be realistic. We are on a floodplain and while flood prevention measures are being implemented by both local and national authorities, there is always a risk of flooding in the future. We hope that these measures will have a positive impact, but only time will tell. In the meantime, we continue to learn from each experience. We have raised every fixture possible within the club to minimize future damage and make the club as flood resistant as we can. If it happens again, we will be as prepared as possible. This is, unfortunately, the price we pay for being in such a great location – one that, in the summer months and good weather is a truly fantastic place to enjoy tennis.

The floods aside, there have been many highlights this year that remind us why we love the club and the sport so much.

We have enjoyed some fantastic tournaments that bring members together for fun and sociable tennis. The year began with the Maisie Hoggard tournament in April, organised by Ellie, followed by the Deidre McGuire tournament in October, organised by Jan, Dave and Ellie, and a very successful club champs tournament organised by Jason. We ended the year with a brilliant Christmas triples tournament organised by Rach and Cath - our biggest yet. A huge thankyou to everyone that gave up their time to organise these wonderful events.

The tennis at the club has continued to go from strength to strength. Membership numbers have increased, particularly in families and junior members. As we look ahead to another year our financial position remains healthy and Lisa will provide further detail in her report. I would like again to thank Lisa for all the work she does in her role as treasurer.

The club continues to be well represented in the County league tennis at all levels. In the summer league we entered seven ladies' teams, five men's teams and two over 60's ladies. We also have 5 mixed winter teams competing in the winter league. It is fantastic to see so many of our members playing competitive tennis and representing the club so well. Organising fixtures and court bookings requires a great deal of work, and I would like to thank Barb and Paul for all your efforts. Thanks also to Team captains, Paul and Rach and to all the individual team captains.

Our social tennis sessions remain very popular, with strong attendance at Monday night social tennis, Men's night on a Wednesday, and the over 50's social session on Thursdays. This year, we've also introduced a ladies teams practice on Tuesday evenings which has had a successful start.

Pay and Play continues to be available on courts 3 and 4 for non-members and provides a valuable additional source income for the club.

Our coaching team, led by Rach continues to do an excellent job delivering a wide range of group and one-to-one coaching opportunities for both adults and juniors. A new adult beginners' session was introduced over the summer adding to an already strong coaching programme. Cardio tennis sessions on Tuesdays and Sundays and regular live ball sessions remain well attended at the club. Rach also does a great job promoting the club on social media and engaging with the wider tennis community. Her full coaching report is available on the club website.

This year we have one committee member stepping down. I would like to thank Lisa Bolster for her contribution and support of the club during her time on the committee. We are delighted to welcome Jamie Davis, who has stepped up to join the committee, and I would like to thank him and officially welcome him to the team.

Once again, I would like to thank all members of the committee for their continued commitment and efforts for the club. Much of what you do is behind the scenes, but it is vital for the smooth running of the club and is very much appreciated. We also welcome any members who would like to join the committee or offer some of their time. As members, it's important to remember that we can all play a role in developing and maintaining a thriving club.

In conclusion, 2025 has been a challenging year. Once again, we have risen to the challenge, and I truly believe we will come out stronger. As we move into 2026, we will continue to strive to provide a safe, inclusive and competitive environment where all members can enjoy great tennis.

Thankyou

Karen Geelhoed
Chair



Lydney Cricket Club

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to provide a positive report on the continued progress and success of Lydney Cricket Club, and to express sincere appreciation for the council's recent investments in the club's facilities.

Over the past seasons, the club has demonstrated strong growth both on and off the field. Participation levels have increased across all age groups, with a particularly encouraging rise in youth involvement. The club has fostered a welcoming and inclusive environment, helping to strengthen community ties and promote healthy, active lifestyles among local residents.

On the competitive side, performances have been consistently strong, reflecting the dedication of players, coaches, and volunteers. Just as importantly, the club continues to uphold excellent standards of sportsmanship and community engagement, making it a valuable asset to the area.

The improvements made by the council—specifically the funding towards the future enhancement of the changing rooms and the installation of the new boundary fence—have had a significant and highly visible impact. The modernised changing facilities will greatly enhance the experience for our players and visiting teams alike, bringing the club in line with higher standards of comfort and accessibility. Meanwhile, the new fence has improved both safety and the overall appearance of the ground, contributing to a more professional and welcoming atmosphere.

These enhancements have not gone unnoticed and have played an important role in supporting the club's development, enabling it to host more fixtures and attract greater community participation.

In summary, Lydney Cricket Club is thriving, and the council's support has been instrumental in this success. Continued collaboration will no doubt ensure that the club remains a cornerstone of the local community for years to come.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting local sport and community initiatives.

Yours faithfully,
Callum Miller
Lydney CC Chairman

Lydney Rugby Club

In My Final Season as Chairman

LRFC has had a good season with the First XV finishing 7th in the League and Hosting Newent at home in the Combination Final on Wednesday 6th May.

The United finished in the top half of the League and next season is looking good with a growing squad of youngsters returning to the game.

Paul Morris has been appointed Director of Rugby for next Season and a new Forwards and Backs coach have joined the Squad.

After being Decimated after COVID our Junior section are finally growing in Numbers and in particular the Girls section and we are hopeful several will be selected for the development squads with trials starting in early May.

The Inclusion of the Solar Panels have been massive to the Club as you can imagine how much Electricity we use.

The recreation ground and changing Facility along with the new Floodlights out there again have been massive enabling us to preserve the Main Pitch for Match Days Only. However the Canadian Geese are still a massive issue to us and our ability to train on there in July will be a test for the new Pitch Hoover purchased last year by the Council. Sponsorship is always hard and this year is proving even harder with Businesses really tightening Purse strings due to the economic crisis.

The Kits for next season will retain the Black and White Hoops through all age groups and we are going to be making a big thing around our 140th Anniversary.

Now we have officially gained the Trademark to call ourselves the Bledisloe Club we are gaining good links with New Zealand and are hopeful we can start regular overseas players joining us.

Duncan Sleeman
Chairman LRFC

Lydney Town AFC Annual Report – 2025/26

Please find listed below a summary of club activities:

1. **Accreditation** - At the end of 2024/25 season club achieved FA Accreditation to play at Football Step 5. Some minor changes to the ground and clubhouse facilities were required in order to achieve this requirement.
2. **Ground Name Change** – After discussion with the Recreation Trust it was agreed to rename the football ground ‘Sansom Park’ in recognition of the 50 years service achieved by Roger Sansom as club secretary. The club thanks the Trust for agreeing to this much deserved accolade.
3. **Additional Changing Rooms** – the club is currently working on drawing up plans to build the additional changing rooms desperately required for the club to be able to utilise the 2nd pitch at the same time as the main pitch. Original plans drawn up were found to be outside the clubs budget even allowing for the generous monies available from the Trust for the project and has resulted in a rethink.
4. **Back Pitch** – while on the question of the back pitch the return of the geese after Christmas gave us a headache and forced the club on many occasions to book an alternative venue such as Bathurst Park.
5. **1st XI** – Unfortunately this season has been tough and we are condemned to relegation from the Hellenic League Premier Division to Division One, which after 11 seasons in the Premier Division is a bitter pill.
6. **Reserve XI** – the knock on effect to the Reserve team is that there is a distinct possibility that they will also be relegated.
7. **3rd & 4th XI** – Both teams have held their own in the North Gloucester League Premier & 2nd division. Although the 3rd XI home ground is designated as the Recreation Ground the geese issues as mentioned above has meant many of their games being played on Bathurst Park.
8. **Under 18 team** – the club also run an Under 18 XI in the Cheltenham Floodlit Youth League. Although they have struggled to achieve success many of their players have successfully made the step up to Senior football and are a vital supply line for the club in the future.
9. **Ladies Team** – the ladies team have had a very good season and are currently 3rd in their Division as well as reaching the County Cup Final being played at Cirencester on Sunday 17th May. Due to the success of the ladies team there is a possibility of running a 2nd ladies team next season. One of the main issues in achieving this is the availability of the back pitch so solving the geese problem is critical to this.
10. **Geese Issue** – we acknowledge the efforts of the Trust with the purchase of equipment to deal with the geese excrement. Unfortunately with the back pitch used mainly at weekends we have found that even if the equipment has been used to clear the pitch on Friday fresh droppings on Friday & Saturday nights leaves us with match day issues. Unfortunately we don’t have any equipment to use the ‘poop scooper’ so it is almost impossible to clear it when it comes to match day so it is still something we need to address and solve.
11. **Main Pitch** – On the plus side even though we have had periods of wet weather during the season we have been very pleased with the drainage on the main pitch. The combination of the new drainage and the remedial work undertaken by the club every close season has certainly shown positive results. Many visitors and league officials have commented on immaculate the playing surface has been. The improved drainage on the main pitch has seen games played when many grounds in the Hellenic League and in the Forest locale have been postponed so we feel that the work done by the Trust on the drainage in combination with the close season remedial work done every season by the club is now bearing fruit.

Neil Hook
Chairman

Lydney Town Hall

Lydney Town Hall Trust is, as always, proud to host the Annual Town Meeting and remains at the heart of our community.

We are extremely grateful to Lydney Town Council for their continued support. Their commitment to our Service Level Agreement, both over the past year and looking ahead to the next three years, enables us to uphold our core aim of providing a community venue, run by the community, for the community. This support allows us to keep the hall open for regular weekday community use, while our weekend events continue to provide the essential income needed to maintain the building, keep the lights on, and ensure the long-term sustainability of this valued asset.

This year, we were delighted to welcome back a much-missed organisation to the town, with Citizens Advice now operating from the hall on a weekly basis from our repurposed office space. Through our Service Level Agreement, we are pleased to be able to support and subsidise this vital service, offering both drop-in sessions and booked appointments for those in need of advice and support.

The hall continues to be extremely well used throughout the week, hosting a wide range of regular groups including NHS Blood sessions, Flower Club, Golden Triangle Club, Slimming World, U3A, and many others. In addition, a number of monthly and quarterly groups make regular use of the facilities, ensuring the hall remains a busy and vibrant space.

We are proud to be the home of Dean Theatre Company, who once again delivered their annual pantomime alongside a second production later in the year, both of which were well supported by the community.

During the festive season, the Town Hall played a central role in Lydney's Christmas programme. Alongside hosting the Christmas Lights Switch-On, we introduced new activities including wreath making workshops, which proved extremely popular and required additional sessions due to demand. We also expanded our Christmas markets and trialled new events such as indoor car boot sales and seasonal craft fairs, helping to bring more visitors into the hall during the winter months.

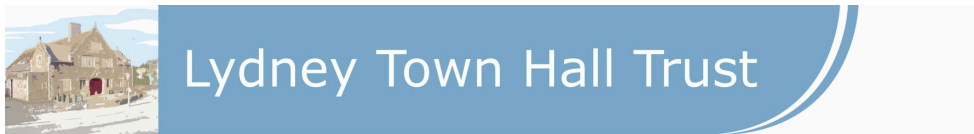
The hall is in use on an almost daily basis, and when not hosting public events, time is spent maintaining, improving, and enhancing the space to ensure it remains welcoming and fit for purpose for all users.

Our weekend entertainment nights continue to be an important part of our income stream. While we have seen a slight decline in ticket sales since January—reflecting the wider economic climate and changing spending habits—we are monitoring this closely and adapting our programme accordingly. Encouragingly, several events have still sold out, and we are continuing to diversify our offer. New ventures such as our Silent Disco have been a huge success, with a second date already scheduled, and we are introducing a wider range of acts, including bands inspired by artists such as Oasis and Coldplay, to appeal to a broader audience.

Looking ahead, we are particularly excited about plans to host a festival-style weekend at the end of September in collaboration with a local business, which we hope will bring something new and exciting to the town.

Finally, Lydney Town Hall Trust would like to extend sincere thanks to our loyal supporters and volunteers. We are always pleased to see familiar faces returning week after week, as well as welcoming back those who may not have visited for many years but are rediscovering the hall and enjoying it once again. It is especially rewarding to hear from those who fondly remember attending dances and discos here in their younger years and are now returning to spend their time with us once more.

We look forward to building on this year's successes and continuing to serve our community in the year ahead.





Lydney_parkrun

Lydney parkrun is a FREE, weekly 5k event that takes place every Saturday at 9am, starting and finishing outside the garages at Lydney Boating Lake. Whether you prefer to walk, jog, run, or volunteer, everyone is welcome to join in.

Our event is family-friendly and a fantastic way to meet new people—especially over a well-earned cuppa at the finish! Parkrun tourism is hugely popular, and we regularly welcome visitors from across the UK and around the world who come to enjoy our scenic route. The course takes in beautiful views of the boating lake, canal path, and wooded areas—and yes, even a famous muddy puddle along the way!

You don't need to be fast or super fit to take part. Everyone who crosses the finish line is a winner in their own way. The real challenge? Coming back next week to try and beat your own time.

We celebrated our 10th anniversary in January, and by the end of March 2026, an incredible 42,980 finishes had been recorded across 469 events. Many of our visitors make a day of it, often heading into town afterwards for a well-deserved breakfast at one of our local cafés.

Volunteers are at the heart of Lydney parkrun. Each week, our amazing team helps make the event happen—whether that's marshalling the course, timekeeping, setting up, or simply putting the urn on for a well deserved cuppa! If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you. We also proudly support young people working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, who join us to volunteer or complete their fitness activities.

We're excited to be approaching our 500th event later this year, and special days like Christmas and New Year's Day are always a highlight—last Christmas, 276 people joined us for a festive run!

It's quick and easy to register, and completely free. Visit the parkrun website to sign up, or find out more about Lydney parkrun online or on Facebook. You can also contact us at lydney@parkrun.com, or simply come along any Saturday morning—we'd love to welcome you.

We're incredibly grateful to the Town Council and Recreational Trust for their continued support, and for the recent improvements to the area under Rob's ground maintenance work.

Come along and be part of something special!



Area Highways

Over the last year, we have carried out resurfacing works at **Tutnalls Street, Orchard Road, Albert Street, and Primrose Hill**, as well as patch repairs to the section of **Harbour Road at the railway line**. These works have successfully addressed areas of highway that had previously required frequent pothole repairs over a number of years.

We have also refreshed the **white lining throughout the town centre** and **completed additional double yellow line works at multiple sites across the town**.

In collaboration with the **Town Council**, our **Find and Fix teams** were deployed ahead of town-centre events to reduce risks to pedestrians when roads were temporarily pedestrianised.

Looking ahead, we aim to deliver more **focused, coordinated programmes of work** in partnership with the **Town Council and District Council**. The intention is to complete routine works collectively during single, targeted working days, helping to minimise repeated disruption and inconvenience to residents, businesses, and road users.

Nathan Choat

Local Highways Manager

Area Highways - West

Police in Partnership

Lydney Town Council hosts partnership meetings on a quarterly basis with the local Police, councillors and representatives from housing associations having properties in Lydney to address reports of anti-social behaviour. Anti-social behaviour covers many aspects that affect residents including noise, smelly garden fires but mostly drug related issues.

These meetings not only highlight to the police how residents are affected by ASB but that the housing associations are aware that their tenants are causing distress to others living in the area.


These meetings have been fundamental in addressing such issues having brought them to the attention of who can and who cannot address the issues raised at these meetings. These meetings are vital to maintain the contact between Police, residents, councillors and the housing associations.

CC Incident Comparison Statistics For Parish Council

Period : 01JAN2026 - 02MAR2026 Compared With 01JAN2025 - 02MAR2025

Parish : 165

Parish=Lydney North

Result Group 1	Result 1	01JAN2026 to 02MAR2026	01JAN2025 to 02MAR2025	+/-	% Diff
NICL Asb	ASB - Nuisance	1	3	-2	(66.67%)
NICL Crime	Crime - other	4	3	1	33.33%
NICL Crime	Violence against the	3	2	1	50.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary dwelling	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary Residential	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Admin	Messages inc nress release	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Admin	Complaint against police	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safetv	Sudden death	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safetv	Susp. Circs./Insecure	6	4	2	50.00%
NICL Public Safetv	Abandoned call inc silent 999	3	2	1	50.00%
NICL Public Safetv	Concern for safetv	2	2	0	0.00%
NICL Road/Traffic	Rtc_damage only(inc animal	1	1	0	0.00%
NICL Road/Traffic	Highway disruption	0	2	-2	0.00%
NICL Road/Traffic	Road related offence	1	0	1	0.00%
		23	22	1	4.55%

Excludes Not An Incident. Excludes Duplicate Incident

Includes only incidents with primary result group of A, B, C, M, P, R or W

CC Incident Comparison Statistics For Parish Council

Period : 01JAN2026 - 02MAR2026 Compared With 01JAN2025 - 02MAR2025

Parish : 148



Parish=Lydney East

Result Group 1	Result 1	01JAN2026 to 02MAR2026	01JAN2025 to 02MAR2025	+/-	% Diff
NICL Asb	ASB - Personal	7	4	3	75.00%
NICL Asb	ASB - Nuisance	14	11	3	27.27%
NICL Asb	ASB - Environmental	14	1	13	1300%
NICL Crime	Crime - other	44	20	24	120.0%
NICL Crime	Violence against the person	33	26	7	26.92%
NICL Crime	Sexual offences	4	3	1	33.33%
NICL Crime	Burglary non dwelling	2	2	0	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary dwelling	0	2	-2	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary Residential (Home)	3	0	3	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary Residential (Unconnected)	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Criminal damage	6	4	2	50.00%
NICL Crime	Drugs	9	7	2	28.57%
NICL Crime	Firearms	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Fraud/forgery/deception	5	0	5	0.00%
NICL Crime	Theft By Shoplifting	2	6	-4	(66.67%)
NICL Crime	Theft - other	3	1	2	200.0%
NICL Crime	Theft from motor vehicle	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Admin	Messages inc press release	14	11	3	27.27%
NICL Admin	Lost or found Property or animals	2	0	2	0.00%
NICL Admin	Complaint against police	5	1	4	400.0%
NICL Admin	Police generated resource activity	3	2	1	50.00%
NICL Public Safety	Alarm - False Personal Attack	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Sudden death	1	2	-1	(50.00%)
NICL Public Safety	Susp. Circs. /Insecure veh. /prems.	23	29	-6	(20.69%)
NICL Public Safety	Civil dispute-not btw neighbours	1	1	0	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Abandoned call inc silent 999	17	43	-26	(60.47%)
NICL Public Safety	Awol /abscond from hosp	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Concern for safety	35	65	-30	(46.15%)
NICL Public Safety	Domestic incident - non crime	8	5	3	60.00%
NICL Public Safety	Missing Person	4	1	3	300.0%
NICL Public Safety	Hoax Call	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Animals/Wildlife	2	5	-3	(60.00%)
NICL Road/Traffic	Rtc damage only inc animal rtca	13	5	8	160.0%
NICL Road/Traffic	Highway disruption	13	8	5	62.50%
NICL Road/Traffic	Road related offence	12	13	-1	(7.69%)
NICL Road/Traffic	RTC Death / Injury	4	1	3	300.0%
=		308	280	28	10.00%

Excludes Not An Incident. Excludes Duplicate Incident

Includes only incidents with primary result group of A, B, C, M, P, R or W

Lydney West 2025/2026

CC Incident Comparison Statistics For Parish Council Period : 01JAN2026 - 24MAR2026 Compared With 01JAN2025 - 24MAR2025 Parish : 172

Parish=Lydney West

Result Group 1	Result 1	01JAN2026 to 24MAR2026	01JAN2025 to 24MAR2025	+/-	% Diff
NICL Asb	ASB - Personal	1	2	-1	(50.00%)
NICL Asb	ASB - Nuisance	0	7	-7	0.00%
NICL Asb	ASB - Environmental	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Crime - other	12	9	3	33.33%
NICL Crime	Violence against the person	7	9	-2	(22.22%)
NICL Crime	Sexual offences	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary non dwelling	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Burglary Residential (Home)	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Criminal damage	1	1	0	0.00%
NICL Crime	Drugs	1	2	-1	(50.00%)
NICL Crime	Fraud/forgery/deception	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Crime	Theft By Shoplifting	5	11	-6	(54.55%)
NICL Crime	Theft - other	1	3	-2	(66.67%)
NICL Crime	Theft from motor vehicle	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Admin	Messages inc press release	5	4	1	25.00%
NICL Admin	Lost or found Property or animals	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Admin	Police generated resource activity	2	2	0	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Alarm - Genuine	0	2	-2	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Alarm - False	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Sudden death	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Susp. Circs./Insecure veh./prems.	14	9	5	55.56%
NICL Public Safety	Civil dispute-not btw neighbours	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Domestic/Industrial - indust acc	0	1	-1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Abandoned call inc silent 999	9	12	-3	(25.00%)
NICL Public Safety	Concern for safety	11	11	0	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Domestic incident - non crime	5	2	3	150.0%
NICL Public Safety	Firearms inc planned culls	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Missing Person	1	0	1	0.00%
NICL Public Safety	Animals/Wildlife	1	7	-6	(85.71%)
NICL Road/Traffic	Rtc damage only (inc animal rts)	5	8	-3	(37.50%)
NICL Road/Traffic	Highway disruption	5	7	-2	(28.57%)
NICL Road/Traffic	Road related offence	2	3	-1	(33.33%)
NICL Road/Traffic	RTC Death / Injury	0	1	-1	0.00%
=		95	117	-22	(18.80%)

Excludes Not An Incident. Excludes Duplicate Incident

Includes only incidents with primary result group of A, B, C, M, P, R or W

Lydney Hockey Club

Lydney Hockey Club was established in 1921.

Based on the current date of April 2026, the club has been around for 105 years, with a long history of promoting hockey in the Forest of Dean.

Key details about the club include:

- Structure: It is a community-focused club “open to all ages and abilities” that currently runs three ladies' teams and a thriving junior section, and a back to hockey session, having previously hosted men's teams.
- Location: They train and play home matches at the Dean Academy's AstroTurf pitch.
- Accreditation: The club has achieved the England Hockey Clubmark accreditation, highlighting its focus on a safe and effective environment.

So if you're looking to make friends and play competitive hockey or are coming back after a break away and would like more information about playing for Lydney hockey club please find our contact details @ www.lydneyhockeyclub.com





ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, LYDNEY BRANCH

SUPPORT FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDANTS IS ONGOING AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO HELP AND CARE FOR THEM. IF YOU NEED HELP OR JUST FANCY A CHAT, CALL MY MOBILE NUMBER AND I WILL DO WHAT I CAN.

SOME OF THE MEMBERS ARE GOING TO ST. BARNABAS CHURCH IN GLOUCESTER TO CELEBRATE ST. GEORGE'S DAY, IT'S A LOVELY SERVICE WHICH INCLUDES THE PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL NAIRAC AWARDS.

IT IS A VERY SPECIAL YEAR FOR THE GLOSTERS, WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IMJIN RIVER, OUR BRANCH HAS BEEN ASKED TO ATTEND THE VERY SPECIAL SERVICES ON THE 12TH AND THE 24TH OF APRIL TO COMMEMORATE THIS SPECIAL MONTH. ON BEHALF OF OUR BRANCH MEMBERS WE SEND OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO THEM.

I AM VERY PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE POPPY APPEAL WENT VERY WELL, WITH SOME HICCUPS ALONG THE WAY. THE OUTSTANDING AMOUNT RAISED SO FAR IS OVER £20,000.00 WITH SOME ADDITIONAL MONEY STILL TO COME IN. CONSIDERING THE AWFUL RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING, PETROL ETC, IT SAYS A LOT ABOUT THE LOVELY PEOPLE OF OUR TOWN AND DISTRICTS, GIVING SO GENEROUSLY, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED, MANY, MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL.

ON THE 2ND MAY, 2026, WE ARE HAVING A "POPPY APPEAL CONCERT", WHICH IS BEING HELD AT LYDNEY TOWN HALL. TICKETS ARE ON SALE ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS, 10-12AM, THE COST IS £10.00 PER PERSON, IT COVERS THE ENTRANCE FEE AND THE HOG ROAST, VEGETARIANS ARE BEING CATERED FOR. WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT THE SPRINGFIELD LADIES CHOIR AND LYDNEY TRAINING BAND WILL BE ENTERTAINING US, WITH A BREAK IN THE MIDDLE FOR THE HOG ROAST AND RAFFLE. PLEASE DO CALL IN AND GET YOUR TICKETS OR CALL THE TWO NUMBERS ON THE POSTERS, YOUR SUPPORT WILL HELP US TO CARRY OUT OUR WELFARE WORK.

TWO OF THE COMMITTEE WILL BE ATTENDING THE ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL TELL US OF ANY CHANGES COMING OUR WAY.

WE WILL ALSO BE ATTENDING THE PARTY IN THE PARK, PARKEND CARNIVAL AND SPEECH HOUSE. DO PLEASE COME AND SAY HELLO.

I WISH TO END WITH MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CAME OUT AND LINED THE STREETS ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY. IT WAS THE BIGGEST TURNOUT WE HAVE HAD. IT MADE THE DAY EXTRA SPECIAL AND VERY MOVING, WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THIS YEAR.

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 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 £70, 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 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:

Email: landsfc@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/landsflowerclub>

Julie Sparks



The Friends of Bathurst Pool

The Friends of Bathurst Pool enjoyed a very successful 26th season with lots of sunny days to bring in the customers. We had 14227 adults and children through the gate for public session and the 350 swim club memberships sold out very quickly. The pool will be open for swim club from Friday 1st May and be open to the public on Saturday 23rd May. We still have a very active group of trustees and volunteers who are dedicated to keep running this pool for the present and future generations.

There is always a lot of maintenance to be done at a pool that is now 106 years old and we are fortunate that we have been able to accumulate a healthy reserve fund to cover all these expenses.

In the last two months the toilet block has been completely refurbished to include new sanitary ware, new flooring and wall panelling and re-siting of the boiler. The fountains at the shallow end of the pool sprung a leak at the end of the summer 2025 season which was seriously damaging the liner. After much deliberation it was decided that they had to be demolished to avoid any more damage. The new fountains have now been built by a local contractor with the water flowing over new stainless steel chutes. The problem has now been cured and, with their colourful mosaic exterior, these new fountains are an added attraction to our already colourful pool.

The five year electricity check has now been completed with any minor faults rectified and a complete new camera system, monitored on site, has been installed.

In the pump house a copper filter basket designed to trap any debris before it enters the pump seriously rotted out and had to be replaced. Because of the archaic system a new one had to be specially made to match exactly. A company from Coleford came to our rescue and manufactured an identical basket in stainless steel. They actually made two so that when one is removed for cleaning the other can be used to prevent having to shut the system down. We are indebted to a lot of local individuals or companies that willingly help us out, many of whom are still using the pool or who have fond memories of it.

We are now almost ready for opening, the winter debris around the site has been cleared, the changing cubicles, shop and office cleaned and the water, having been treated, is crystal clear. So here is to looking forward to another great season at Bathurst Pool.



Sheila Berryman
Trustee, The Friends of Bathurst Pool

Community Shield Award

The Town Council was delighted to continue its annual Student Community Award Shield this year, presented in partnership with the Mayor, recognising the outstanding achievements and community spirit of young people within our local schools. The award highlights students who go above and beyond to make a positive difference to others and celebrates the exceptional talent, kindness and dedication found within our community.

This year's recipient was Scarlett, a Year 7 student from Dean Academy, who was nominated for her remarkable fundraising efforts in support of the MPS Society. Scarlett's commitment was inspired by her wish to help a friend living with the rare condition MPS VI, demonstrating compassion and maturity beyond her years.

Last year, Scarlett completed an impressive 50km off-road cycle ride to raise funds, and this year she has set herself an even greater challenge by undertaking an 80km cycle ride in a single day. Her determination, generosity and willingness to support others made her a truly deserving winner of the award.

As part of the presentation, Scarlett received the Student Community Award Shield, which will remain proudly displayed at the school, together with a One4All gift voucher presented by the Mayor.

The Town Council is proud to recognise young people such as Scarlett, whose actions reflect the very best of our community values. Through awards such as this, the Council hopes to encourage and celebrate the many talented, caring and inspiring students in our area.



Lydney Community Centre

Volunteering and contributing are very rewarding in terms of personal satisfaction, using and gaining skills and knowledge. This has made the Community Centre the success it is, and we continue to be very busy with a full diary of groups meeting at the Centre, including

Art classes, Sing to Remember, Breathe in Sing Out, Yoga and Chair Yoga, Lydney Guides, Treblemakers, Linedancing, Zumba, Fitsteps, Tai Chi, Stretch and Tone, Allsteps mini movers, Allsteps Dance Academy, Bridge Club, WI, Kickboxing, Cobra Kids, U3A painting, Forest Youth Project, Kings Arms Community Church, Muslim Prayers, Supastrikers a preschool football club, Sing and Sign, Lydney Quilters, Lydney Crafters Group, Azalea luncheon club and Memory Club (the latter 2 groups are supported by Lydney Town Council). Two new free to attend groups meeting monthly are Rethink Drop in and Great Oaks Drop in, which are supported by Friends of Lydney Hospital. The Forest of Dean District Council continue to support referral classes of Tai Chi, Active Balance and a Social Group.

In addition, thanks to Lydney Town Council, we are able to provide free coffee mornings on Mondays and Thursdays from 11am – 12.30pm and Technical Assist Support for laptops, smart phones and tablets on Friday mornings 10.30am – 12 noon. Our diary gives details of the days and times of all the groups Hallmaster - Lydney Community Centre Scheduler



The Centre itself is run by a hardworking management team supported by a committee, all are volunteers. We would love more volunteers to join us, especially with skills and knowledge for the roles of finance, bookings, health and safety, or to just join the management team or committee, and if that is of interest, please contact us.

We have upgraded our fire alarm system, and CCTV coverage, increased the insulation in the roof spaces, repaired the old flat roof, installed a cycle rack, LED lighting and boxed in heating pipes, replaced radiators in the toilets, repointed some of the outside walls, and repaired some of the wooden fascias.

Looking to the future, we are planning to redecorate the toilets and improve the Gents by replacing washbasins, urinals, and installing a disabled cubicle to ease the pressure on the existing disabled toilet.

Lydney Bowling Club

Lydney Bowling Club celebrates its 100th year Anniversary this year. We started life behind the Old Feathers Hotel, in 1926 and moved to our current location in Bathurst Park in 1952.

We had our opening of the green on the 11th April, where we invited the Mayor and representative of our chosen Charity (Great Oaks Hospice) along. The Mayor delivered the first bowl of the season to officially open the green. The local press was also in attendance and an interview with the Chairman and photos were taken. A report of this event was published in the local papers.

To celebrate this milestone, the club are hosting 4 celebratory matches. We will be hosting the following:

Gloucestershire Vice President BA on the 17th May
Bowls England on 10th June
Gloucestershire Bowls Association on 14th June and
Welsh Barbarians on 30th July

We compete in the CMA, Wyvern leagues during the week and the Gloucestershire Sunday league, in total we play in excess of 60 games during our summer. During the winter, the members play short mat in the clubhouse.

We offer three free lessons to any new players by our qualified coaches. Please, pop along on our Club night on Wednesdays at 6pm wearing flat shoes all other equipment will be provided.

I would like to thank the Park team for the maintenance of the green and their advice.

I would also like to thank our generous sponsors for their support, Wildin & Co, Chepstow Hearing Clinic, Fast Fit Garage Doors, Gordon Blake Funeral Directors and Lydney Skip Hire.

David Deal
Chairman, Lydney Bowling Club

Churches Together in Lydney

CTIL is an active partnership bringing together the churches in Lydney with a passion for community development and serving the needs of our local area.

The partnership currently focuses on three things:

- Support with major events during the year
- Enabling and supporting the Community Family Ministry programme (see report below)
- Developing strong relationships between the churches in order to look at forward mission and ways we can best build community in our town

In 2025 we supported with the Lydney Community Day but sadly due to poor weather were unable to run the Carols at the Bandstand event in December.

A key function of the partnership group is to look at resources and how as one team we can resource special events but also look to the future. We cross-promote events and opportunities for joint community activity, training and volunteer development.

We also support the ongoing Open the Book project which focuses on offering Bible storytelling in primary schools across the area and is open to all schools.

In Summer 2025 the Forest of Dean Salvation Army launched its Employability Mentoring service, journeying with individuals in a very tailored way - looking to develop their skills, learning and job prospects. This scheme is run jointly with mentors drawn from different local churches and managed by The Salvation Army. The scheme has focused on 18-30 years olds but is open to those of all ages.

As of April 2026 we have hit a total of 70 people across the Forest of Dean who have benefitted in some way from the service, with many engaged long term and where we have been able to support in wider aspects of life, not just finding work. Around 30 of these are from the Lydney area.

We are very much motivated by community need and seeing where the gaps and development needs are within Lydney and are really keen to continue working with wider partners including Lydney Town Council.

Finally, there is a key link with the detailed activities of the Community Family Ministry which is also an ecumenical shared programme - details are in the next report.

For anyone wishing to engage with CTIL please do contact Jon Harris
Email: jon.harris@salvationarmy.org.uk and 07881 805 952
(Jon Harris, Chair Churches Together in Lydney)

Community Family Ministry

The churches of Lydney provide 5 different groups during the week. All of these help to combat loneliness and provide support and companionship for little ones and their grown-ups.

During the school summer holiday some provision continued as there was support for this from the families.

Thrive on Friday, which meets monthly in Lydney United Reformed Church, began in 2024 and is a very informal 'church' for those who come along. This is a free event with activities, games, a short Christian message and a meal. It's been wonderful to see people inviting friends. The year culminated with a full Christmas meal, complete with homemade crackers, party games and a reflection on the Nativity. This continues to grow from strength to strength.

A new venture for 2025 was Community Well-being walks developed with The Salvation Army in the Forest of Dean. These take place monthly on Saturday mornings and are accessible to people all abilities. Some are also wheelchair friendly. A regular route is to Lydney Harbour with a break at HIPS for refreshments. Routes also include Lydney Lake, Bathurst Park and Primrose Hill. – with new routes recently undertaken in Aylburton.

Refreshments are provided in a local church building or we support a local café. These are specifically intergenerational events with participants ranging from 9 months to 93 years bringing a real sense of community and engagement. They also serve as way to invite new residents to the town to make connections, whether moving into the new housing areas or simply moving into the town.

This is a super opportunity to mix with others, meet new friends, whilst enjoying being outside together.

Thrive on Sunday happens monthly in St Mary's and it has been good to welcome Nina as part of the team who facilitate these times of worship. It has been a joy to see people going deeper in their relationship with God and growing in faith. The 'sharing time' each month is a particular encouragement as we hear how God has been working in people's lives.

Partnerships with Two Rivers Housing continue and during the summer we provided Community Brunches and also supported the Sportily events in Bathurst Park. A new partnership is with Gloucestershire Gateway Trust (who manage the Children and Family Centres in the Forest) and we have held Pop-up Hot Chocolate stalls. This has been a good way to meet with the community, especially our secondary school pupils.

We also partner with Forest of Dean Babybank who come along to the groups, supporting families. We have helped to distribute Household Support Vouchers to families who need that extra financial support and with The Salvation Army in issuing free school uniform.

We love to support local Community events and have been present at both Lydney Community Day in the summer and Light Up Lydney in December. All events provided are free, but donations are very welcome to support our costs.

This year we developed our own 3 year CFM strategy and action plan, looking to new ways to explore how we support Lydney and the surrounding villages as community. This strategy is built on strong partnership across organisations of all types – so if anyone would like a copy or discuss how

they can get involved with the plan please email jon.harris@salvationarmy.org.uk or cfmlyndey@gmail.com

We are thankful to all those who support this Community Ministry, prayerfully, practically and financially, as we serve the community of Lydney and the surrounding villages.

(Jane Penny, Community Family Minister)

Victoria Centre

2025 was a very special year. The Victoria Centre celebrated 50 years as a lunch club in Lydney. Events were organised, to say a big THANK YOU, to all the organisations that have supported us over the years and continue to do so. A party for all of our volunteers to say a big THANK YOU to them, for making the Victoria Centre the success that it is today and special events for our diners.

The centre provides between 80 and 100 meals each week for the over 55s and people with disabilities. We have a dedicated team of 20 volunteers who do an amazing job and without them none of what we do would be possible. Carol and Pam (our cook) spend a lot of time planning the menus and ensuring that we provide the best meals, which are all freshly prepared on the day.

Carol (our Manager) works tirelessly to ensure that the Centre runs smoothly, organising fundraising events, raffles and celebrations during the year. Carol also donates a lot of time and effort to the Centre and also many of the decorations. These are used for our events during the year: Valentine's Day, Easter, Wimbledon fortnight, which always includes strawberries and cream, Remembrance Day and Christmas Day Lunch.

In 2025 I was able to attend the Christmas Day Lunch which was, as always, very well supported and once again we were able to provide a free meal for all the diners, music and singing with Ed Pruen, who generously gave his time free of charge. This special day is only possible with local support and the many people who give their time Christmas day and on Christmas Eve to prepare the food. It was especially good to hear, first hand, from many of the diners how much they always enjoy the day and how special it is and in particular to those who would otherwise be alone for Christmas.

We would like to thank 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 the many organisations who have supported us this year: The Coventry Building Society, Forest of Dean District Council, Lydney Town Council, Forest of Dean Lions, Tesco Lydney, Albany Engineering, West Dean Parish Council, Gloucestershire County Council Thriving Communities and Rising Sun Community Hub, without all of their help and generosity a lot of what we have achieved throughout 2025 would not be possible. We are very grateful also to the teams from QTS and Network Rail, who spent a week repairing and painting all our fencing and the erection of a new and much needed storage shed, all of which is a real enhancement to our garden. They worked so hard and were also invited to enjoy a home cooked meal; they said "It was meals like Mum used to cook".

Our aim is to provide a comfortable environment for people to meet, socialise, enjoy games, coffee mornings, and other events throughout the year. The Victoria Centre also plays a major role in preventing social exclusion, something that is so important in the difficult times that many people continue to face.

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

A letter from one of our diners:-

“Many thanks for the delicious meals you serve to the diners throughout the year, special congratulations to the cook. You are all so welcoming, cheerful and kind; this means so much to everyone especially those who live alone. “

Lovely comments from three of our volunteers:-

“At my age memories are usually “All our Yesterdays” The Victoria Centre has created much more.

“The Victoria Centre is my happy place where everyone is made welcome, a hub of friendship, food and fun.

“Volunteering at the Victoria Centre has been a lifeline for me since my husband died, I have made new friends, and it is so nice to be with such a happy go lucky band of workers and diners.

We are ”MORE THAN JUST A LUNCH CLUB.”

Glynis Halling (Chairman)

Forest Community Energy

Forest Community Energy

We are a group of local people who believe that the future of energy should be clean, fair, and locally owned. As a Community Benefit Society, we bring neighbours, friends, and partners together to create renewable energy projects that put the people of the Forest of Dean District first. We are owned and governed by our members, which means everyone has a voice. Decisions are made collectively, and any profits we generate will be reinvested into local projects.

We meet regularly around the district or online, and have used the Lydney Community Centre several times. One of our current projects, "Get Grant Ready", is supporting local community buildings on their way to installing solar panels, including Lydney Town Hall, and the Four Seasons Cafe in Bathurst Park.

Did you know that there is a Thermal Camera Loan scheme where you can borrow a camera for free from Lydney Library and check out where your home might be losing heat?

We want to support local businesses and often have our smaller face-to-face meetings in local cafes, over coffee (and sometimes cake!). We have been to Taurus Crafts, the Four Seasons Cafe, and Hips Social locally.

We have sixty members, and 10% are people from Lydney! It's just £1 to join, and easy to do online: <https://www.forestcommunityenergy.org.uk/membership/>

We would love to welcome you!



Four Seasons Cafe

We offer a variety of hot & cold beverages. Speciality coffees, iced coffees, herbal teas & soft drinks.

We have freshly baked sausage rolls, breakfast baps, Toasties, jacket potatoes, sandwiches & Seasonal homemade soups. Gluten free & vegan options also available. A wide selection of Cakes, cookies, ice creams also with Gluten free & vegan options.

We allow dogs on leads in & around the coffee shop ONLY. Dogs are NOT permitted to go on the grass area around the building. We sell dog treats, sausages & dog ice cream.

Our opening times vary as the park is weather dependent. It's hard to gauge ahead of time so we always open 7 days a week during school holidays and bank holidays. Opening times get extended through the year as it gets lighter & warmer.

Opening times are 10am weekdays & 9:30 weekends. We close the inside around 3:30 but offer takeaway until the park goes quiet, at the moment this is around 4pm but we will always stay longer if needed.

Thursday we hold a Knit & Natter group which is from 10am, some people stay till around 2:30pm but others come and go to suit their day. We can teach you to knit or you can come along with your own knitting. This last year we have knitted over a 1,000 fish & chip baby outfits, toys for shoe box appeal, items for the dementia group & various items for other groups as asked for.

Fridays are crafting morning from 10am, bring in a project you're doing or try a new skill, we have several ladies that are very talented and turn their hands to all sorts of crafts, from crochet, needle felting, cross stitch, silver clay jewellery making, beading etc. We have amply free space for other groups on a Friday, so if you are looking for a space to hold an event then please pop in for details.

I raise money for various charities through the year, by doing craft fairs, sky dive, wing walk, anything I'm asked to help with, so far, we helped Great Oaks, Local Food Bank, & James Hopkins Trust. If there are any local charities that want me to do a fund raiser please contact me.

We have a stall at the events held on the park grounds which we thoroughly enjoy every year.

We are so proud of our town & community events.
We appreciate all the hard work that goes into the planning each event.

Lydney & District Twinning Association – 2025 Review

Members of the Lydney and District Twinning Association visited our Twin Town of Brehal in Normandy between 29th May and 1st April 2025. As usual, those who took part in the exchange funded their own travel arrangements, with host families in and around Brehal providing accommodation and entertainment for the 4-day visit. Although some visitors chose to travel in advance in order to holiday in other parts of Northern France, the Twinning visit started with a Thursday afternoon reception hosted by the Mayor and Town Council at Brehal Town Hall (below):



In his speech, the Mayor of Brehal, Daniel Lecureuil, welcomed those of us that had made the journey to Brehal and a response was given on behalf of the Twinning Association by Janet Willett.

On the Friday, the Brehal Twinning Association arranged a cultural visit to Lucerne Abbey in South West Normandy led by a local (English-speaking) guide, followed by a picnic provided by our hosts. This was followed by an evening celebration dinner at Granville Golf Club.



The Saturday was set aside for hosts to entertain their visitors, with numerous trips and visits being organised around the local area. This included one group traveling to visit the museum at Arromanches (providing the history of the Mulberry Harbour that was constructed following D-Day) followed by a trip to the British Normandy Memorial at Ver-Sur-Mer which was hosting the memorial silhouettes at the time (Below):



In addition to all members continuing to pay an annual subsidy, the Lydney & District Twinning Association undertook the usual fund-raising events during the year. These included a Quiz Night and raffle at Woolaston Village Hall and a Summer BBQ event, where several potential new members were introduced. These events have been scheduled again for 2026.

A delegation from Brehal will be visiting Lydney from 14th to 17th May this Year, and it is anticipated that, once again, a reception will be hosted by our Mayor at Lydney Town Hall on their arrival. This will be followed up by a formal group dinner and various cultural visits in and around Lydney as we continue to maintain our strong relationship with the Brehal Twinning Association.

If you would like to get involved in any of these events or find out more about the Lydney & District Twinning Association, including both hosting and future visits to Brehal, please get in touch via Lydney Town Council.

Andrew Dean

Forest of Dean Dementia Alliance

The overarching aim of the Forest of Dean District Dementia Action Alliance is to make sure that everyone in the district living with dementia is understood, respected, supported and enabled to continue to enjoy living their lives in their own community as well as possible for as long as possible.

To support the wider community to understand dementia and inspire and enable people to do things which contribute to a dementia friendly community.

The key priorities of the Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance and some example of activity and what we need help with:

AWARENESS: To increase people knowledge and understanding of dementia and how it can affect someone.

Let Talk Board games available in all libraries.

Managing Memory Together in Gloucestershire provides free information, education and support for people with memory concerns, dementia, and their carers. Unfortunately, they have limited take up from the community in the Forest of Dean, we would like to understand why this is. We need help to reach the community.

ACCESSIBLY: Encourage buildings and green spaces to be dementia friendly (physical accessibility and welcome) which is about being inclusive to all. Could we do a place-based activity and review Lydney?

Visit www.foddaa.org.uk to download checklists for free information and guidance.

ACCESSIBLY: How can we create mechanisms to enable people living with dementia and their carers and families in Lydney and the surrounding area to have a voice and be heard

ACTIVITIES: THINGS TO DO, PLACES TO GO

The DAA has enabled many activities which individual partners sustain such as the Music Memory Café in Lydney now delivered by Crossroads Gloucestershire, Great Oaks Bereavement Support. But some people want to pursue personal interests rather than group activities and stay connected to their communities in a way that is familiar to them.

We are currently having conversations with Forest Leisure and the district councils Active Wellbeing Leads to research and develop physical activities which help people to live better longer.

National Dementia Awareness Week is 18th-24th May

Here are three areas that we would like support to raise awareness and get people involved:



Dementia Awareness Day and Memory Walk

Sunday 17th May 2026

10:30 – 16:00

At Beechenhurst

What3Words location: [///impressed.abruptly.deed](https://www.what3words.com/#!/impressed.abruptly.deed)

Please note parking charges apply

Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance welcomes everyone to an awareness, information and fun day suitable for all age groups, which will include guided walks, indoor virtual walks, circus skills by Artspace, information stands from our members/partners, plus you can view the wonderful merchandise kindly donated by local crafters to raise awareness of dementia.

Help to create a memory wall installation – you can add a photo of someone you know who had or has dementia (these cannot be returned) in celebration of them or you could add a memory to a large forget me knot flower.

The event will be opened at 10:30 by Dr Jennifer Bute

Dr Jennifer Bute, a former GP, retired due to early onset Alzheimer's and now campaigns for people with dementia. She speaks inspiringly about living with the condition and finding positives in her experience.

Maps will be provided on the day for self-guided routes, or you can book to join a guided mindful walk at: www.wildeearthjourneys.org/product-page/dementia-awareness-day-walks

10:45 and 13:45: Forest tracks, undulating with gentle climb - 1.7 miles

11:15 and 14:30: The Glade trail, accessible for all - 0.6 miles

or click on the QR code:



A Tramper all-terrain mobility scooter will be available on the day and must be booked in advance by emailing: fodrangers@forestryengland.uk

We look forward to welcoming you!

Keep an eye out for events across the County for Dementia Awareness Week
#DAWGLOS26



Creating a
**Dementia
Inclusive
Community**
www.foddaa.co.uk



Forestry England



Wilde earth
JourNeys
Circuit • Explore • Discover • CSC
www.WildeEarthJourneys.org



mindSCAPE Creative Activity Day

Saturday 23rd May
10:30am – 3:30pm
The Wesley Arts Centre, Cinderford, GL14 2AA

Come and enjoy a day shaped by creativity, nature, and human connection.
From soothing art activities to playful performances, this event is about
enjoying some time together.

10:30am - 3:30pm Free, drop-in creative natural crafting activities including sessions from local artist Warren Day, plus much more!

1pm-1:45pm and 2pm-2:45pm A workshop and improvisational drama performance from The Golden Thread Playback Theatre. Come to one or stay for both. FREE to attend. Spaces are limited. To guarantee attendance please book using the link/s in the comments or call 01594 825111

- Information from Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance partners
- Free tea, coffee and cake
- Part of Dementia Action Week 2026 #DAWGLOS26

Designed with older people in mind, especially those living with memory or cognitive changes, the day warmly welcomes carers, families, friends, and supporters to take part side by side.











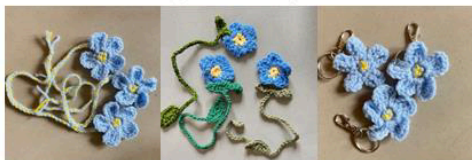
Crafted Together

Can you knit / crochet?

The Forest of Dean Dementia Action Alliance knows there is a great community out there who love to knit / crochet, so we are reaching out for your help.

Leading up to Christmas and beyond we would like your help to raise awareness of dementia in our community.

We invite you to knit / crochet book markers and forget me not flowers that we can sell to raise much needed funds to support community activities in the Forest of Dean and to hand out as mementoes at our memory walk on 17th May 2026.



Starting a conversation about dementia raises the awareness and helps create an inclusive community. We are therefore happy to attend group meetings, or why not attend an in-person dementia awareness session held throughout the year.

Visit www.foddaa.co.uk click on Get involved and select **Crafted Together**

for patterns and to find out more about us.

Do you have additional pattern for other items that you'd like to share with the community? Together we can build a catalogue of patterns on our website. Just send them to: admin@foddaa.co.uk



If you would like to get involved in a conversation about Lydney please contact
US
-help@foddaa.co.uk

FODDC Local Plan

Lydney Town Council wish to make observations, ask for conditions and support with conditions.

When asked to comment on the outline proposals for the Local Plan following the Governments unrealistic requirements for such a large number of dwellings in the Forest of Dean and primarily focussed on the area around Lydney - LTC recognised that the proposal presented in 2025 was the most workable option. Having considered the Local Plan that is now presented at Consultation we would want to see that the provision of housing was based on the need for a changing population in a rural district and that the Local Plan recognises the most important need for strategic development and necessary infrastructure to support this.

It is our understanding that across the district there are a large number of unsold houses. To be required to provide more based on a national formula is not in the local interest. Whilst LTC recognise the efforts Council have made to ministers there was no positive outcome. However, LTC does acknowledge that the Local Plan as presented does present a workable though unwelcome response to the demands of Central Government. Our response has several reservations, requests certain conditions and now that the detail has been worked through is supportive with certain conditions.

The fundamentals of the Local Plan we consider to be mainly logical given the demands placed upon the District Council and we understand the need for and support the two new settlements planned to meet those demands and the focus on expanding the four major towns. However, by far and away the largest expansion is that being planned for the area around Lydney. Whilst we welcome some additional housing and recognise the need for growth in our town our concerns centre around the need for strategic infrastructure to support this growth. This has to be part of any planned development as the issues that already face Lydney through lack of infrastructure plus a large influx of housing and population growth will become untenable.

1 Clarity of Presentation

We feel the Plan would benefit from a map of District boundaries, the Forest of Dean and major towns and villages and surrounding area. This would emphasise the special nature and beauty that is intrinsic to our landscape and makes the natural environment and landscape so important. This would also emphasise the uniqueness and importance of the district, the poor transport infrastructure and the limitations these place on land availability. Such information about context would help the Inspector understand the difficulties and community concerns the Governments new housing calculation has presented.

2 Strategic Infrastructure

Whilst the Local Plan recognises the difficulties in improving the infrastructure both within the settlements and connecting with the rest of the District and wider area, we are very disappointed with the lack of description of these. Strategic problems that have historically been very evident in Lydney and have not been addressed will become even worse for the economic growth of the town if there is no acceptable improved infrastructure to support it and these should be outlined in the Plan. Whilst such strategic development is outside the remit of District Council now is the moment to highlight these problems and the implications for the area the large influx of people this Plan will bring in the next twenty years. We would wish to see this referenced in the Local Plan.

Our sewage system was last updated in 1975 prior to the housing boom and is no longer fit for purpose – the sewage pumping station is inadequate for the current demand and raw sewage continues to be pumped into the River Severn leaving its detritus along its shoreline endangering both humans and the natural habitat. We applaud the work done since the 2024 floods by various agencies to upgrade our flood defences – but all agencies will need to work together to provide adequate infrastructure to support the proposed housing plans.

Whilst Lydney is taking the bulk of proposed housing we have recently lost MIU healthcare facility and no longer have the Dilke Hospital, yet we are the largest town in the Forest with insufficient healthcare facilities. We currently need new schools and youth facilities. The main arterial route is the A48 between Chepstow and Gloucester and is regularly gridlocked at rush hour and a pinch point at both towns impeding commuters. The M48 Severn Bridge is regularly closed to traffic. Some improvement in road infrastructure has to be considered. LTC would request that these existing objections are considered by District and acted upon.

3 Local Infrastructure

We note the reliance on S106 developer contributions to finance aspects of the local need. However, with such a large population growth resulting from 1200 plus dwellings there will be great strain on local provision of schools, healthcare, recreation and amenities, active travel routes, public transport, road infrastructure for increased traffic. LTC would suggest a priority listing of need for each town and large village to indicate how developer's contributions would be used to support such provision.

However, as the only District within the county that does not support CIL funding we would wish to see this position changed to reflect the majority county decision as LTC see that local councils would be in a better position to implement these proposals in the Plan by a change to CIL. We would request that the recent decision to continue using the S106 format be urgently reconsidered.

4 Lydney Neighbourhood Plan

We would wish to see some reference to our Plan that is currently at the Reg 16 stage with District and has reached acceptable criteria. We have incorporated the planned housing expansion and set out our desired criteria for that housing both in our Design Code and preferred social housing ratio and the infrastructure required to meet such a huge expansion. We are hopeful our Neighbourhood Plan will be ratified by Autumn 2026 and our policies become legitimate in Planning Terms. This Plan has been years in the making with effort and input by both the local community, local businesses and LTC. We need existing local businesses to flourish, attract new businesses and bring employment and create a prosperous thriving community. To ignore the policies written in our Local Plan is not acceptable.

5 Local Characteristics

Lydney is being positioned by Council as the “Gateway to the Forest”. We do not wish to lose our distinctive character as a Town in the Country and be subsumed by a densely populated area. There is a balance between sustainable housing and adequate infrastructure and the need to have somewhere enjoyable to live and protecting that environment and biosphere as opposed to creeping urbanisation whereby we become a town everyone drives through to get somewhere else.

Lydney Army Cadets

So far this year Lydney Army cadets have covered a wide variety of activities for our cadets, which have included navigation, shooting, physical activity and fieldcraft.

We have had 3 promotions and not have a full corporal, and 2 new lance corporals.

We are signing up more of our cadets to the Duke of Edinburgh award.

The generosity of Lydney Council have provided the detachment with our first ever standard and a large amount of equipment that the cadets will enjoy in the summer months.

We are keen to get involved in more community activity to show our presence and help out around Lydney where we are needed.

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 £70, 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 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:
email: landsfc@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/landsflowerclub>

Lydney Parish

The Parish of Lydney is comprised of the churches of St Mary's in Church Road, and Holy Trinity on Primrose Hill. I have the privilege of being the Priest -in-Charge of both, together with the churches in Woolaston, Alvington, Aylburton and Aylburton Common as we are all part of the same Benefice (group of worshipping communities/churches).

I started my role in Lydney Parish in July 2025, or perhaps I should say restarted my role here, as I was also a minister in this community in a voluntary capacity from 2016 to 2020. This is why you might find me looking at you quizzically if we meet somewhere in the town because I might feel that I should know you, but I just can't remember when or where or why we met before! However, please do feel free to say Hello to me should you see me about, because as your Vicar I am here for the whole community whether or not you attend one of the churches, and I always like to chat, and to listen and to learn something of your story. I am, as I always say to people I meet, a safe pair of ears.



St Mary's Church I am delighted to say, is open every day during daylight hours and you don't have to be a "member" (whatever that means) to come and visit or to pop in while you go past. As the Parish Church, St Mary's is available to every single person in Lydney, people of faith or of no faith or people who are wondering about faith – that doesn't matter, we are glad to be open for you all. If you have never visited it is a beautiful, quiet space, full of deep peace and of that special "something" which is found anywhere where prayers have been said for centuries. Come to visit and feel welcome, as you are.



Holy Trinity on Primrose Hill has been serving the community in which it is set for 93 years. It is not open every day, but does host a number of community groups and activities in the church room, and every Wednesday a Coffee Morning where you will find good coffee and tea, lovely cake and friendly conversation available to all who wish to come. Also on Thursday mornings, there is a wonderful stay and play Toddler Group (Pebbles). If you are at Holy Trinity, you can always visit the church and pause a while for reflection or prayer in what is a lovely, beautifully kept and intimate sacred space.

Both our churches hold regular services to which everyone is so very welcome and our service times are:

St Mary's 8:30am Quiet Holy Communion – a more traditional said service.

St Mary's 10am 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month - Family Communion or Morning Prayer accompanied by hymns with Karibuni Sunday Club for children in school years 1 to 6. Followed by refreshments.

St Mary's 10am last Sunday of each month – Thrive Intergenerational Worship for the whole family, always informal, fun and lively as we learn more about God together and includes refreshments.

Holy Trinity 4:30pm Holy Communion or Evening Worship with hymns followed by refreshments. It is lovely to gather together after a busy day and reflect on what God has in store for us in the week to come.

Thank you for reading this report, and if anyone wishes to know more about who we are or what we do, whatever your interest might be – perhaps heritage, or bell ringing or church music or learning more about faith, or seeking a wedding or a baptism, perhaps you are sad, perhaps you are full of joy, or perhaps you would love your child to be part of Karibuni, or wish to come with your little one to Pebbles, or are intrigued by the idea of Thrive – please do get in touch with me.

Be blessed.

Revd Nina

Revd Nina Summerfield
Priest in Charge of Lydney, Woolaston, Alvington and Aylburton
The Vicarage
5 Raglan Gardens
Lydney GL15 5GZ
01594 800966 please always include code when you call
My usual day off is Friday

Girlguiding

GirlGuiding is an organisation for girls and women and provides its members with a little of everything. Meetings are varied and provide our young members with a space to explore existing passions and try new things. We provide valuable lifeskills, a safe and fun environment, and an opportunity to grow and thrive as individuals.

From crafts, to games, to life skills, to fun and friendships, to nights away, and the all important badges, there is something for everyone.

GirlGuiding is split into different age groups so we can provide meetings that meet them where they are. We currently have the following groups:

2nd Lydney Rainbows (4-7year olds) - Wednesday Evenings
1st Lydney Brownies (7-10year olds) - Thursday Evenings
2nd Lydney Brownies (7-10 year olds) - Wednesday Evenings
1st Lydney Guides (10-14year olds) - Monday Evenings
2nd Lydney Guides (10-14year olds) - Wednesday Evenings

There are lots of opportunities for the over 14s too, with Leadership roles opening up the possibilities for growth and confidence.

Adults are always welcome to join in and make a difference with their time too. If you are interested in signing up or want more information, please go to: gilguiding.org.uk/get-involved



Lydney Skiff Project Rowing Group

The Lydney Skiff Project started in 2021 with funding from Forest of Dean District Council as part of the Harbour regeneration project.

The Boat is a community project built by Volunteers from across the Forest of Dean and elsewhere with the aim of benefitting the local community and encouraging healthy exercise.

The Boat, named Emerald is a St Ayles Skiff traditionally constructed from Marine Ply and designed to be easily built by community groups with little formal boatbuilding skills. She was completed in 2024 and launched in early 2025 in Lydney Harbour.

A group of regular volunteers have rowed her during the year and even attempted a session on the River Severn which was highly successful.

Our plan is to attract more volunteers and Rowers to join us on Tuesdays and Fridays at the Harbour so that we can continue the project.

A meeting is planned for Saturday 9th May at Lydney Yacht Club at 10am to decide the future of the project.

We can be contacted by email: lydneykiffproject@gmail.com or by calling Chris King on 07860 540949



River Children & Family Centre

One of the nine Children and Family Centres, managed by Gloucestershire Gateway Trust

Based in Lydney, The River Children and Family Centre offers a wide range of workshops, programmes and activities for children and families. Our work is welcoming, supportive and inclusive, with a strong focus on strengthening family relationships and building a connected community.

Local parents and carers can access support through our neurodivergent support programmes, community cafés, stay-and-play sessions and a variety of family-friendly events and activities. Our Lydney Community Café hosted the very first Family Voice group recently, giving parents and carers the opportunity to share feedback on family based community proposals and take part in the decision-making process, by voting on how funding should be allocated.

Through strong partnerships with local organisations and community groups, we also deliver feeding support groups, family-friendly pizza-making workshops, SEND parent-carer coffee mornings, community engagement activities and outreach wellbeing walks.

In addition, we have developed and launched our Kids in the Community Scheme, working alongside local primary schools to support children in engaging positively with their local neighbourhoods.

Our involvement in events such as the Lydney Christmas Light Switch-On, where we supported the introduction of a Quiet Hour, alongside our regular attendance at Community Response Network meetings, enables us to connect with families, professionals and partners to ensure local needs are heard and addressed.

At our recent GGT (Growing Great Together) Fest, held at the Severnbanks site, we welcomed almost 700 visitors. With free lunch included, this family-friendly festival offered a full day of activities, from hook-a-duck and bouncy castles to a climbing wall that many children bravely took on.

Looking ahead, with our Meet Me At campaign launching this summer, we look forward to welcoming even more families across Lydney and the Forest of Dean.

Bonnie

Street Warden Pilot

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) give 50,000 permits a year to companies who wish to undertake road works to access their pipes or cables. These range from utility companies like water, gas and electric to developers building new homes. Every set of roadworks legally requires a permit whether planned maintenance or an emergency. If work is started as an emergency the company must notify GCC within 2 hours of work commencing. Permits are given for a set number of days. Each site must be safe and tidy, inconvenience road users as little as possible, be finished on time and leave a clean site with no rubbish/signs or barriers left behind.

GCC employs an inspector to check sites in each area to ensure they are complying with their permit. The Inspectors check approximately 1100 sites a month. Our inspector covers the whole Forest from Sedbury to Newent. There is not the capacity to check every site.

GCC are piloting a Street Warden project where Town Councils could have some designated Councillors who can monitor sites in their local area. Lydney and Newent Town Councils have been chosen for the pilot. Three of our Councillors have had Street Warden Training and have been given enhanced access to the system that issues and monitors permits. They also have enhanced access to report problems.

As part of their voluntary role as a Town Councillor they can alert GCC of any sites that do not have permits, are not safe, overrun or leave a site with defects or signs and barriers left behind. Companies are fined for any of these breaches at a daily rate. This role will give GCC extra eyes in the area and hopefully will aid the residents of Lydney to have safer sites and possibly less disruption on the roads.

If this pilot is successful it may be rolled out to other towns.

The Music Bus

The Music Bus is an innovative, community-focused initiative developed in response to concerns raised by local partners about increasing antisocial behaviour among young people in parts of Gloucestershire. Recognising a need for positive, accessible engagement opportunities, the project is driven by a clear mission: to bring the power of music to every corner of the county, particularly in rural areas, such as Lydney.

Community organisations, youth services, and local stakeholders have identified a gap in provision for young people—particularly in underserved areas—where limited access to creative outlets can contribute to disengagement and antisocial behaviour.

One such area is Lydney, where community partners have highlighted the need for increased youth engagement, provision and positive activities.

The Music Bus was organised to attend Lydney for 10 weeks, as a direct response to these challenges. By taking music-making opportunities directly into communities, it removes barriers such as cost, transport, and long-term commitment, offering an inclusive and welcoming space for young people to participate.

What the Music Bus Offers

The Music Bus is a fully equipped mobile music studio, enabling young people to explore a wide range of creative activities, including:

- Writing and recording original songs
- Creating beats and producing tracks
- Playing new instruments
- Learning to DJ
- Singing karaoke

These activities are delivered through facilitated sessions led by experienced and passionate music leaders, ensuring that participants receive both creative freedom and guided support.

Approach and Delivery

A key strength of the Music Bus is its low-barrier, flexible approach:

- No prior experience required
- No commitment or pressure to continue
- A focus on enjoyment, exploration, and self-expression

Sessions are designed to be youth-led and inclusive, allowing participants to engage at their own pace. The presence of skilled facilitators ensures that young people are not only having fun but also gaining exposure to industry-relevant techniques in music production and performance.

Impact on Young People and Communities

The Music Bus has already demonstrated strong engagement with young people across Gloucestershire. Its impact can be understood in several key ways:

1. Positive Engagement

By offering an alternative activity, the Music Bus helps divert young people away from engaging in Antisocial behaviour and into constructive, creative pursuits.

2. Skill Development

Participants gain practical skills in music creation, digital production, and performance—building confidence and potentially opening pathways into creative industries.

3. Social Connection

The sessions foster a sense of belonging and community, encouraging collaboration and peer interaction.

4. Personal Expression

Music provides a powerful outlet for emotions and ideas, supporting mental wellbeing and self-identity.

Community Value

Beyond individual benefits, the Music Bus contributes to stronger, more connected communities. It acts as a visible and positive presence in neighbourhoods such as Lydney, demonstrating investment in young people and their potential.

Importantly, it helps channel young people's energy into something meaningful, supported by adults who value their voices and participation.

The Music Bus is more than a mobile studio—it is a catalyst for change. By addressing the root causes of disengagement and providing accessible creative opportunities, it plays a vital role in reducing antisocial behaviour and enhancing community wellbeing. Through its continued work, the Music Bus & The Music Works, is helping to create opportunities, nurture talent, and build lasting connections, ensuring that young people across Gloucestershire—including those in Lydney—have the chance to explore their creativity in a supportive and inspiring environment.



THE MUSIC BUS

Bringing the power of music to every corner
of Gloucestershire.

COME AND MAKE MUSIC FOR FREE

WHERE?

**LYDNEY SKATEPARK
CARPARK**

WHEN?

**EVERY THURSDAY FROM
7TH MAY – 16TH JULY 2026
4–5:30PM**

AGES?

aimed at 10 – 17yr but
everyone is welcome

For any general or accessibility
enquires, please get in touch at:
musicbus@themusicworks.org.uk



Scan to
watch
our video.

Salvaging St Mary's

If you wish to read this report please see a member of the council, who can provide you with a copy

Letters to Heaven

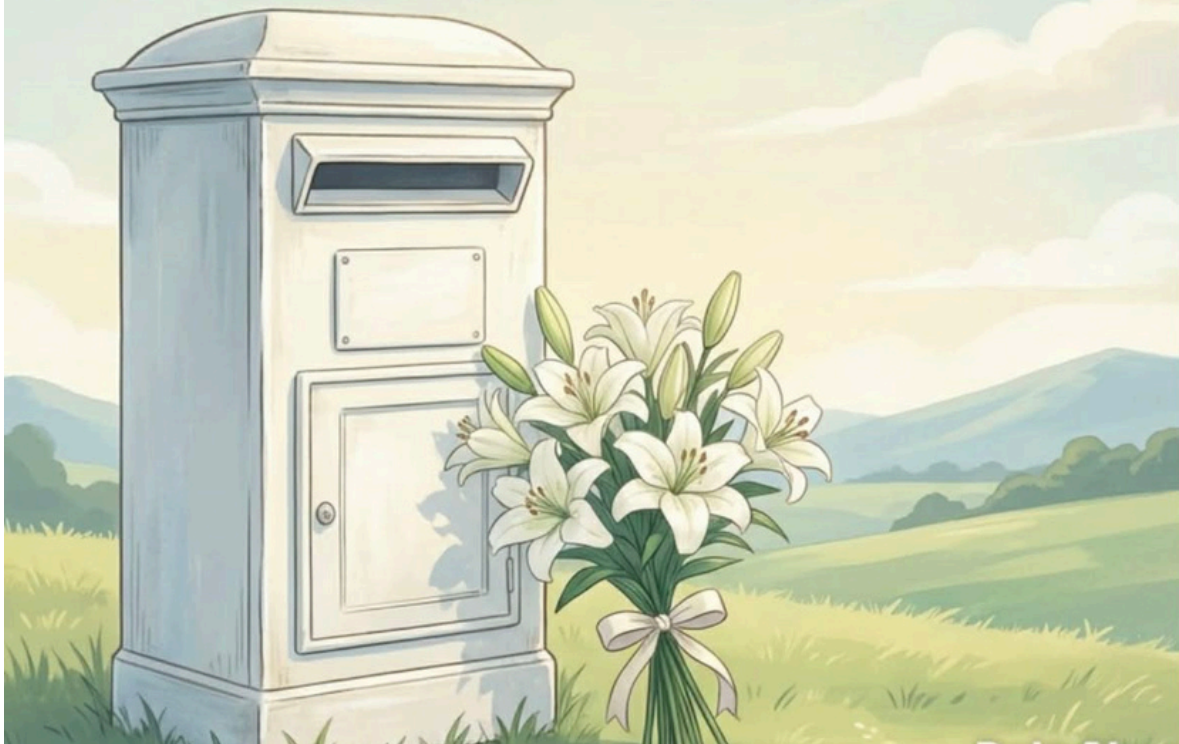
This post box is a dedicated space for you to share your thoughts, love, and memories with those you hold dear.

We invite you to leave letters, cards, or notes as a beautiful way to stay connected with your loved ones remembered here.

Your Privacy and Peace of Mind: Please be assured that all messages placed in this box are treated with the utmost respect. They will remain private and will never be read by our staff.

To help us care for this special place, we kindly ask that only paper items—such as letters and cards—are placed inside the post box. Our team will gently clear the messages from time to time as part of our regular care for the grounds. While we are unable to provide long-term storage for these items, please know that every message is handled with care and dignity before being moved.

Thank you for helping us maintain a peaceful and reflective environment for everyone who visits.





TOWN COUNCILLOR COFFEE

MORNINGS

COFFEE CHAT CONNECT



10:00 - 11:30 am

QUARTERLY DROP IN SESSIONS

An opportunity for residents to engage directly
with your Councillors



Lydney Town Hall, High St, Lydney GL15 5DY



Deputy Clerk: Mrs L. Bendall

Lydney Town Council

Contact Details: town.clerk@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Telephone: (01594) 842234

Address:

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

Website: www.lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk



Customer Information Point/Opening Times
9am – 1pm | Monday – Thursday
9am – 12 Noon | Friday

‘WHY NOT HIRE THE CHAMBERS’



Councillor Details

Cllr Tasha Saunders (Mayor)

07488 251049

cllr.tsaunders@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Roger Holmes (Deputy Mayor)

01594 840316

cllr.rholmes@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Carol Harris

01594 841026

cllr.charris@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Steve Cave

07972 917906

cllr.scave@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Susan Holmes

01594 840316

cllr.sholmes@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Pam Johns

07824 666629

cllr.pjohns@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Emma Taylor

07825 413096

cllr.etailor@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Michele Jones

01594 780289

cllr.mjones@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Tracey Lindsay

cllr.tlindsay@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Susan Hillier

cllr.shillier@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Gillian Phelps

cllr.gphelps@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Niall Holbutt

cllr.nholbutt@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Jon Gregory

cllr.jgregory@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Cllr Celia Evans

cllr.cevans@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Council contact details

Lydney Town Clerk

town.clerk@lydneytowncouncil.gov.uk

Council positions and roles

Finance and Scrutiny Committee

Cllr Roger Holmes (Chair)

Cllr Carol Harris (Vice Chair)

Personnel Committee

Cllr Roger Holmes (Chair)

Cllr Tasha Saunders (Vice Chair)

Planning and Highway Committee

Cllr Carol Harris (Chair)

Cllr Pam Johns (Vice Chair)

Amenities Committee

Cllr Susan Holmes (Chair)

Cllr Tasha Saunders (Vice Chair)

Burial Committee

Cllr Emma Taylor (Chair)

Cllr Carol Harris (Vice Chair)

Regeneration Committee

Cllr Pam Johns (Chair)

Cllr Carol Harris (Vice-Chair)

Lydney Recreation Trust

Trustee Tasha Saunders (Chair)

Trustee Steve Cave (Vice Chair)

Bathurst Park and Recreational Trust

Trustee Tasha Saunders (Chair)

Trustee Tracey Lindsay (Vice Chair)

Forest District Councillors

District Cllr Mark Topping 01594 840086

District Cllr James Bevan 01594 842146

District Cllr Andrew McDermid

District Cllr Harry Ives 07443 343395

District Cllr Allen Preest 01594 564668

County Councillors

Gloucestershire County Cllr Mark Howard

Mark.Howard@gloucestershire.gov.uk

WHERE TO FIND THE HELP YOU NEED?

WHAT?

Includes:

- Community grants
- Burials
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- The Recreation Ground

WHERE?



Lydney town council
lydeytowncouncil.co.uk
01594 842234

Includes:

- Bins, rubbish and recycling
- Bulky waste collection
- Fly tipping
- Street clearing
- Abandoned vehicles
- Council tax
- Benefits
- Housing
- Dog warden
- Pest control
- Planning and building control
- Car parks



Forest of Dean District Council
www.fdean.gov.uk
01594 810000

Includes:

- Libraries and archives
- Schools
- Birth, marriages and deaths
- Health and social care



Gloucestershire County Council
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
01452 425000

Includes:

- Public Rights of Way
- Roads and pavements
- Overgrown vegetation
- Street lighting
- Flooding



Highways

Gloucestershire County Council highways
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
0800 0514514

Includes:

- Lydney Harbour
- Waterways



Environment Agency
Lydney-harbour@environment-agency.gov.uk
0203 025 3940

Dates for your Diary

Summer Event - 25th July 2026



Remembrance Event - 8th November 2026



Fireworks Event - 5th November 2026



Christmas Event - 29th November 2026



Annual Meeting of Council														May-26							Jun-26							Jul-26																		
Full Council / Planning and Highways														Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					
Finance and Scrutiny																		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
Amenities														4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
LRT + BPRT / Burial														11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26					
Planning & Highways starts at 6pm unless otherwise indicated.														18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	28	29	30	31	29	30	31	27	28	29	30	31							
Full Council Starts at 7pm unless otherwise indicated.														25	26	27	28	29	30	31																										
Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust Starts at 7pm.																																														
Lydney Recreation Trust Commences after the conclusion of the Bathurst Park & Recreation Trust Meeting.																																														
Personnel Committee meetings will be called when necessary.																																														
The Annual Town meeting will be held at the Town Hall High St, Lydney GL15 5DY. The date for this meeting is yet to be decided.																																														
August Recess- No Council/Committee Meetings: Planning Decisions Taken under S101 Delegated Powers.																																														
Aug-26														Sep-26							Oct-26							Nov-26							Dec-26											
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31				26	27	28	29	30																						

All meetings occur at Lydney Town Council, Council Chambers, Clarendon House, High Street, Lydney. Gloucestershire. GL15 5DX
 Unless otherwise indicated.