



LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING REPORT 2016/17

(PART 2 – Community Reports)

CUSTODIAL/SOLE TRUSTEE REPORTS

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust 2016-2017

This has been my second full year as Trust Chairman and third as a Lydney Councillor.



Last year I spoke of the Trust's decision to pursue the Green Flag Community Award. This is a national award for excellence in the management, presentation and use of community-run green spaces.

Since then bird-boxes have been installed in the Conservation Area, all signage has been thoroughly cleaned and where necessary re-painted, all car park lining has been re-applied and all slabs surrounding the pavilion have been power-cleaned. A disabled bay has also been installed in the parking area to improve accessibility.



As part of our preparations, Trustees have prepared a Five-year Management Plan highlighting our aspirations across five different areas. Intended as a statement of intent, the Plan covers sustainability, biodiversity, heritage, improving park entrances and promoting the park as a well-maintained space. This process involved consultation with park users by means of a questionnaire, and special thanks go to Trustees who assisted in this process. Indeed, the only action remaining before assessment relates to the Victorian fencing bordering Avenue Andre Clement – very obviously in need of repair.

To address this, planning permission was received to remove all railings on the “sports” side of the park facing the central walkway. Once removed, these railings will be used to repair the remaining sections elsewhere in the park. Similarly, permission was received to enclose the memorial gardens from the existing entrance at the “sports” side back to the boundary wall, to include provision for an entrance gate allowing vehicular access to the “sports” side. All railings will be repainted and a large “Welcome to Bathurst Park” sign will be erected at the entrance to Avenue Andre Clement. Once all works are complete, we will finally have addressed an issue that has plagued Bathurst Park for years.



Last year I spoke of plans for an “upcoming” Bollywood dance event due April 2016. Looking back the event was a fantastic one – particularly for the many children who got to dance with professionals. As a follow up, Trustees are organising a larger event for Saturday 19 August 2017. Intended as a celebration of Bathurst Park, the event will be free to attend and includes a professional dance troupe together with a variety of complimentary music acts. It should be a great day out, so do come along.

This has been a particularly busy year for the Trust, and in addition to the above we roofed the bandstand structure, hosted a meeting with Gloucestershire's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and held another outstanding fireworks display. Special thanks to 'Star Fireworks' who have agreed to provide 15% extra fireworks at no extra charge in 2017. Thanks also to the Lydney Fire Service who provided support on the day - your time was highly appreciated.



As with last year, I would like to finish by paying tribute to the groundsman, Lydney Town Council office staff, Bathurst Park Trustees and our Pavilion Tenant for their continuing commitment to this key amenity. The Pavilion Tenant in particular deserves special mention, for she has been instrumental in the promotion of our café facilities and is a credit to our Town.

Thank you.

Trustee Harry Ives
Chairman

Lydney Recreation Trust Annual Report for 2016/17

The popularity of Parkrun every Saturday morning at 9am has continued with an average of a hundred runners enjoying the course around the lake and playing fields, which during the year have been enhanced scenically with wild flower plantings.



The need to improve the drainage of the playing pitches is still a necessity for the sports clubs to produce quality pitches that would allow the sportsmen to express their ability. Sports Lottery have made grants available in the past for a limited period for drainage work, but those opportunities were missed. The main concern of Sports Lottery is to create new playing pitches and get more people playing sport and being active.

The Junior Rugby have hosted two County tournaments using the whole of the unfenced playing fields on the Recreation Trust. Unfortunately both tournaments were both badly affected by dog faeces which RFU and club officials had to remove prior to play. It is disappointing that thoughtless dog owners had failed to remove their dog waste which could put young rugby player's health at risk as a result of infection.

The Skate Park is still popular with young people for skating and BMX and the Park has become a meeting hub for young people.



Improvements to the MUGA and new access path have increased the usage mainly for five aside football players of all ages.

*Trustee Derek Biddle
Chairman*

COMMUNITY REPORTS

FRIENDS OF BATHURST POOL

ANNUAL REPORT

23rd APRIL 2017

The 2016 season at Bathurst Pool was the best ever with a large increase in attendance resulting in a turnover of £65,136. There were many favourable comments both verbally and on Facebook congratulating us on cleanliness of the site, the friendliness of the staff and the improvements to the sundeck area with sails and artificial grass.

The shop was extremely busy and trustees, committee members and volunteers were dedicated and worked tirelessly throughout the season.

Another Baptism service, organised by The Riverside Community Church, was attended by many people and was a huge success. There was also an exhibition by Blackrock Art which took place in September at the end of the season. This was attended by 200 people and probably is to become an annual event.

The end of season dinner and social evening was a very enjoyable occasion and brought together trustees, committee members, volunteers, swim club members and, much to our delight, the lifeguards that had been employed during the season.

We are holding an art exhibition at the pool at the beginning of May which we hope will be visited by members of the public. The pool will be open for swim club only at this time and opens fully on 27th May.

We are currently making improvements to our shop and office and before we open there will be more grass laid and more rainbow tables purchased, all funded by ourselves.

We are delighted with the flower beds at the front of the pool funded by Lord Bledisloe and the feedback from the public has been amazing.

All those involved with Bathurst Pool are as enthusiastic as ever and are looking forward to another great season.

Sheila Berryman
Trustee/Treasurer





Year End Report 2016

This has been a year of change and evolution for the Forest Food Bank. Paul Woodward, who managed the Food Bank since its conception in 2013 moved away to pastures new and in preparation for his move which happened in August 2016 his numerous roles were allocated to members of the Management Committee in June 2016. At this time our Treasurer Louisa Mitchell bravely stepped-up and volunteered to take over the manager position, albeit in a much reduced capacity from the myriad of roles Paul used to do. Sadly with a full-time job, a young family and other charitable commitments, she decided she could not do the role justice and stepped down in September 2016 when the numerous roles were once again reallocated.

At this point, I was 'persuaded' by other members of the committee that I would be ideal for the role... - I'm 61, married to my wife Barbara for nearly 39 years, I took early retirement in 2013, my step-children fled the nest many years ago, providing us with 11 grandchildren & now 4 great-grandchildren, and although I also volunteer as a Lydney Dial-a-ride volunteer driver, Age Concern Meals on Wheels delivery driver, Forever Hounds Trust Transport Manager for Gloucestershire, Parish Magazine deliverer, Village hall grass cutter, Greyhound dog-walker, and had been co-opted as Foodbank warehouse Manager in Pauls role dissemination, also Box Filler, Key Holder & regular volunteer at Cinderford Distribution Centre, I felt I could donate enough time & energy to the position. I have a background in IT, having worked as a computer programmer for what used to be Eagle Star Insurance in Cheltenham for 38 years, and a logical mind (although not as sharp as it used to be!).

Having been formally accepted as Food Bank Manager I quickly found that there was a lot more to the role than the committee had previously been aware of, particularly in the areas of statutory policies and procedures. I undertook to contact all 100+ Referral Agencies to introduce myself as the new Food Bank Manager, to check their contact details, signatories and indeed whether or not they still wanted to be a Referral Agency for us. As a result over 75% of the contact details were updated and 17 Agencies left us. Some were no longer in operation or had amalgamated with other services. We also have six new agencies which include Dene Magna and St Peter's School, Newnham. With the help of other members of the Management Team I have also updated all the Volunteer Risk Assessments and Health & Safety procedure documents to current standards.

At the end of 2015 we moved to larger Warehouse premises in Cinderford and the new arrangement of shelving has made it much easier to rotate stock. We managed to use all the extra space pretty quickly and could do with even more space to take the incredibly generous donations we have received from the local community. The Warehouse is also now registered as a Food Business with the Environmental Health and Tina Gray who had been a Cinderford Volunteer was persuaded to take up the position as the new Warehouse Manager.

In the latter part of 2016 we stopped issuing bags of refined sugar as a 'staple item' and instead made it available as 'Help Yourself', following a direction from the Trussell Trust and various health scares in the media.

Now for some statistics comparing our operation in 2016 vs 2015!

We currently have 460 households and 117 Agencies registered.

Vouchers Issued 1130 vs 1112 (up 1.6%)

Major Issuers

Cinderford Town Council	172	191
FODDC (Coleford)	284	320
Green Square	68	34
Lydney Town Council	123	25
Turning Point	45	33
Two Rivers	79	46

Total Food Distributed 23343kg 22764kg (up 2.5%)

People Fed

2807	2971
(1811 Adults, 996 Children)	(1855 Adults, 1116 Children)

By Area

Cinderford	673	606
Coleford	620	747
Littledean & Ruspidge	127	163
Lydbrook & Ruardean	118	264
Lydney	400	446
Mitcheldean & Drybrook	169	143
Pillowell	161	87
NFA	21	57

By Family Make-up

Couples	154	164
Families	393	260
Single People	452	396
Single Parent	151	159

The Main Causes of Crisis

Low Income	1133	970	(usually benefits only, no earnings)
Benefit Delays	638	772	
Benefit Changes	552	610	
Debt	159	237	

Age Groups

Adults	17-24	201	Not recorded
	25-64	1140	
	> 64	40	

Friends of Lydney & District Hospital

Annual Report 2016/17

The past year has once again been a busy one for the hospital with almost full occupancy of in-patient beds at all times, and good attendance at out-patient clinics. The Minor Injuries and Illness Unit (MIIU) has also been well used and it was good that there were no changes to the opening hours when these were under review throughout the county during the autumn.

Staffing levels are now satisfactory following a successful Local Recruitment Day when a number of suitably qualified nurses were engaged. This will substantially reduce the need to use expensive agency staff over the coming year. There are pressures however from a shortage of radiographers nationally and this has led to the need to temporarily close one x-ray facility in the Forest. Plans are now well advanced to upgrade the facility at Lydney in the very near future; it was decided that this work could be carried out in parallel with the temporary closure and therefore Lydney x-ray facility was withdrawn early in January for 4 months. It is now expected that the upgrade work will be completed by early May. The Friends have agreed to pay for the new equipment at a cost of around £120,000 and the Hospital Trust will pay for the installation costs of around £60,000. Once complete, this facility will be the best available at any community hospital in the county.

Fundraising has been quite successful throughout the year thanks to the continuing generosity of local individuals, companies and organisations. The Annual Fete in July was once again the main source of income raising more than £13,000. The recently appointed Matron Cheryl Haswell opened the event, which was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.



Cheryl Haswell



A new Trauma Trolley (pictured) was acquired for the MIIU thanks to the generous support of two young men, Louis Turner and Adam James, who funded part of the purchase; they were patients of the MIIU three years ago following a serious car accident and one was transferred to Southmead Hospital by air ambulance due to the diagnostic expertise of the MIIU staff, this undoubtedly saved his life. Many other purchases have been made during the year and these are listed on our website, and in the latest issue of the Newsletter which continues to be published twice a year and is widely read throughout the district.

The Locality Reference Group continues to meet as reported last year, and it is expected that preliminary options will be published for local consultation in July. These are expected to include suggestions for the rationalisation of community hospital services in the Forest in addition to proposals for improving health and social care provision generally.



December 2016 - Donna of the Lydney Coventry Building Society presenting a cheque for £661 to Anthony Midgley of the Friends of Lydney Hospital



December 2016 - Sister Sarah Jones at the nurses Christmas party for patients



March 2017 - Andrew Clark and Anthony Cooke directors of 'Resilient Energy Great Dunkilns' presenting a cheque for £3,000 from the St Briavels Wind Turbine Community Fund



Lydney Coastal Community Team 2016/17

Team Governance

The Lydney Coastal Community Team (LCCT) comprises an Executive Group and a wider Stakeholder Group. LCCT meetings are chaired by the Environment Agency with Forest of Dean District Council providing the accountable body and administration roles. This year the Stakeholder Group has increased its membership and welcomed Severn & Wye Smokery, Lydney Harbour Estate, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, the Forest History Society, the Lydney Skiff Project and Natural England.

Team Activity

The focus for the team during 2016/17 has been to complete the refurbishment of the historic swing bridge and bring this back into operational use. Forest of Dean District Council secured the required Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent from Historic England and ran a competitive procurement exercise to identify a contractor to undertake the works. The Environment Agency working with the National Offender Management Service has undertaken vegetation clearance, site clean-up and minor repair works to bridge base. The refurbished bridge is scheduled for re-installation before the Easter weekend.

The team has also been busy preparing a £2.1M bid submission to the Coastal Community Fund (round 4) for the *Lydney Harbour Eyes Right* project. In November three specialist consultants were appointed to provide highway design, architect and landscape architect services to support Stage 2 bid submission. If successful, this project will improve access to the docks, harbour and canal, increase visitor numbers and provide visitor facilities at the harbour for the first time. CCF4 funding announcement is expected in April 2017. LCCT has promoted the *Eyes Right* project with exhibition stands at Lydney Library and Forest of Dean District Council offices from 16 Dec 2016 - 28 Feb 2017 and a direct mail out to 20 residential neighbours. A total of 20 comment slips have been received. A summary of the responses received from this information share exercise is included in the LCCT Economic Plan 2017.

The team has been tasked to update the LCCT Economic Plan 2016 to acknowledge activity to date and report any changes to the short, medium and long term goals. A draft was presented to the LCCT Stakeholder Group meeting in February. The updated Plan will be submitted to the Government before 31st March 2017.

LCCT also spent time developing a Severnside Heritage Action Zone proposal and submitted this in September 2016 to Historic England (HE) for consideration – sadly this bid was not successful. HE officers provided face-to-face feedback and offered

help the team develop projects that seek to conserve local heritage in ways that will provide lasting economic benefits to the town.

This year the Environment Agency have continued their efforts to transfer land ownership at Lydney harbour and in June 2016 announced the preferred bidder for the site – Mr Richard Cook. A programme of legal and due diligence work is underway to prepare a Harbour Revision Order that will need Parliamentary time as part of the formal public consultation process.

As the Local Planning Authority, the District Council is keen to support development in the Lydney harbour area that is consistent with both the Local Plan and the Lydney Neighbourhood Development Plan. To prepare for new mixed-use investment, the Council has commissioned a *Lydney Severn Estuary Recreational Study*. This study will provide baseline surveys and identify any measures necessary to avoid/mitigate disturbance to bird life. The Severn Estuary qualifies as a Special Protection Area & RAMSAR site for its wintering birds and is a Special Area of Conservation for a range of estuary habitats and fish species. A draft report from this research is expected in May 2017.

Wendy Jackson
Regeneration Manager
Forest of Dean District Council

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REPORT

2016 - 2017

In our role as custodians of Remembrance the Branch has been involved in various commemorative events during the year.

On Friday 1st July, the centenary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme, we held a Commemorative Service at Lydney War Memorial to remember the 12 men from Lydney who died in the battle. Crosses were placed in a display at the foot of the monument by pupils of Lydney C of E and Severnbanks Schools. The Dean Academy Secondary School were also represented.

On Sunday 13th November the Branch took part in the annual Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service of Remembrance. Blessed with fine weather, this year's event was very well attended. Particular thanks must go to the Parade Marshall, Ken Lindon, the Vicar and volunteers at St. Mary's, the ATC Corps of Drums and the Lydney Training Band for their contributions but also thanks are due to every one of those individuals and groups who took part, paid their respects and made this such a very special occasion.

On Sunday 13th February we hosted another successful Poppy Concert in Lydney Town Hall. This was the 32nd consecutive concert - a quite remarkable achievement. A delightful evening's entertainment, led by Mary Jess, resulted in takings of over £1300 for the Poppy Collection.

So far this year the poppy Collection Fund totals £16,446. The Appeal does not close till 30th September and we are hopeful that we will by then have exceeded last year's total of £19,694. Thanks as always go to Stan Rudge, our Poppy Appeal Organiser, his Deputy Carol Powell and their splendid team for the work that they do throughout the year,

Our 'Pop In' Welfare Support Centre upstairs at 3 Hill Street continues to flourish. It is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to noon and offers support, advice and help to any serving or ex-serving personnel and their dependants. It is one of the busiest such drop-in centres in the County.

In August we transferred from our custody, subject to no objection from any surviving member of the family, the service medals of Able Seaman William Haines who had been lost when HMS Charybdis was sunk off the Channel Islands in 1943. The medals were passed to the custody of John Eskdale who conveyed them to the Guernsey Sea Cadets who have put them on display in their appropriately named 'Charybdis Room'.

In November the Branch had the honour of hosting, at the family's request, the award of the Legion d'Honneur to Peter Terndrup, a veteran of the D Day landings in Normandy.

As 2018 approaches, planning is already beginning nationally and at county level to consider how the centenary commemoration of the end of the 1st World War should be remembered. We will keep the Town Council informed as the event approaches.

As a Branch we wish to place on record our thanks to the trustees of 3 Hill Street who allow us use of the building. We also would like to express our thanks to the Town Council for their continuing support for our work in the community.

Ian Hendy
Chair, Lydney RBL

13th March 2017

LYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL (ALMSHOUSES) TRUST **ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 2017**

The Lydney War Memorial (Almshouses) Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, next to the War Memorial. The properties are divided into two houses and four flats.

The Trust continues to meet each month at the Naas Lane Community Centre. The Trustees have remained the same throughout the year; Mrs Ruth Richardson, Mrs Valerie Hobman, Mr Bill Osborne, Mrs Sue Osborne and Mr Simon Moore.

At the AGM Mr Simon Moore agreed to take on the role of Chair and Mrs Valerie Hobman agreed to continue as Vice Chair. Attendance at the meetings has been excellent, with all meetings in the year being quorate. Gill Moir continues to act as the clerk and administration officer for the Trust.

A programme of works, drawn up as a result of last year's Quinquennial Survey, was completed last Autumn. Sadly one of our residents died at the end of last summer and therefore one of the flats became available. After significant renovation works, a new resident moved in at the beginning of February. The Trust continues to maintain a good relationship with its residents, who can phone the clerk at any time should any problems arise.

As a result of ongoing issues with graffiti being left on the walls and roof over the walkway in Avenue Andre Clement, the Trustees have asked Dean Academy and a local painter, Tom Cousins, to work together to design, and then paint, a mural on the walkway walls and roof. Dean Academy has launched a competition inviting students to come up with designs to depict the history and heroes of Lydney. It is hoped that if this area is designed by local young people it will discourage future defacing. Tom Cousins has run a workshop with those students who are keen to enter a design, with the aim of helping them understand how to work within this unique context. The deadline for submissions has been set at March 28th. Once a design has been chosen, the Trust will ask Tom Cousins to paint the mural in situ at some point over the Summer. We hope the project will both strengthen links between different parts of the community and create something memorable and of note in the area.

Mr Simon Moore
Chair





LYDNEY TOWN HALL

Annual Report

The Lydney Town Hall Management Committee is extremely pleased to report that the last 12 months have seen a real change in fortunes for the Town Hall. Not only have we seen a significant increase in the number of local people and community groups wanting to use the facility, but we will also be able to show a surplus in the accounts for the very first time since council funding came to an end. Total income generated from office rental, events and fund-raising activities is likely to be up by approximately 35% compared to the previous financial year.

We have continued to play host to a wide range of local community groups, including U3A, Lydney and Severnside Flower Club, The Alzheimer's Association, The Forest Musical Society and Regency Dance Club. We have hosted a wide range of musical performances from local brass bands and choirs, through to jazz, rock and pop concerts. Our reputation as a great venue for music has led to a recent upturn in new enquiries, and it is our intention to increase both the number and the range of musical performances in the coming year.

We have also seen an increase in the number of local people wanting to use the Hall for family functions, including weddings, children's parties, anniversaries etc. Many local people have a real fondness and appreciation for the history of the Hall and consider it a very special place to celebrate their event with family and friends.

We have recently undertaken a complete review of our accounting and control procedures, and have cleared all long-standing debtor and creditor positions. New procedures regarding the control and accounting of all incoming and outgoing funds have been introduced to ensure that proper audit trails are in place.

I am very grateful to my colleagues on the Committee who have worked tirelessly to ensure the Hall has continued to operate successfully, from helping with the smooth running of events, through to fund-raising activities and day-to-day maintenance.

Michael Channon
Chairman



**Lydney
Community
Centre**

01594845704 / 07504565153

Loves

Volunteers lydneycommunitycentre@outlook.com www.lydneycommunitycentre.co.uk

[lydneycommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.lydneycommunitycentre.co.uk)



lydney community centre



The year has seen a reduced income as a result of Family Lives who used Room 1 having to close their valuable parental support service as unfortunately they were unsuccessful to attract the major funding support . It was especially disappointing as they also brought in CAB & NHS training sessions to assist with some of the local social problems. The Job Club also moved their sessions to 3 Hill Street, mainly because the food easily obtained.

Fortunately new art, music and more keep fit classes have filled the gap and boosted income, but caution has been the watch word during the latter months.

I am pleased to report that the Monday Coffee & Chat Club which struggled to attract anyone last year has blossomed with persistent advertising and warm welcome from members Mick & Barbara.



Roy Cansdale monthly Jazz4U has also taken a long time to establish a following, but a Jazz Cabaret by Gethin Liddington Trio was enjoyable evening.

The Film Club with new screen installed in September is only attracting a handful of people and alternative days and times will have to be tried as an experiment to hopefully establish a following. The film equipment was purchased with a generous grant of £1300 from Forest of Dean Lions and the equipment was installed by Vantage Point electricians as a gift in kind from Brian Bennett.

The social committee have had another successful year with over £3k raised and has been used to purchase equipment and assist with management costs. I am pleased to report that Dennis Barnard's quiz proves to be as popular as ever.

At the end of the year LCC was notified that the application was unsuccessful for the Reaching Buildings Lottery bid for a £400k for building improvement in conjunction with Youth Activities as it was deemed unsustainable.

A £18k bid from Gloucestershire Environment Trust for new double glazed windows and insulated ceiling which will reduce the heat loss of the building. While the lower suspended insulated ceilings with new LED lights will improve the comfort and ambience of Room one and two to the twenty first century standard, was successful.

Derek Biddle



THE VICTORIA CENTRE

VICTORIA ROAD, LYDNEY, GLOS, GL15 5DG
TEL: 01594 843418
EMAIL vclydney@hotmail.com
CHARITY no: 272726



As Lydney attracts more new residents it seems appropriate to outline the vital role that this Centre plays in the lives of our older generation.

It is a unique charity in this area offering a lunch and other activities, Monday to Friday, for most of the year at a subsidised rate.

Lunch is cooked in a 5 star kitchen.

We even open on Christmas Day.

The site in Victoria Road, near Tesco, is ideally placed and easily located, and the members are well served by the local Dial A Ride service.

The atmosphere is welcoming, warm and safe.

It survives and succeeds because of the devotion of countless volunteers and the financial backing, not only of local councils, organisations and businesses, but also of local people.

2016 was another successful year in which the renovation of the building was completed and in which we joined the 21st century with computerisation, so that through e-mail, Facebook and website we can communicate to our supporters and future members.

Pearl Biddle
Secretary

For bookings please contact Carol Haycock at the Centre.



LYDNEY FESTIVAL

The 2016 Lydney Festival continued its aims to allow local young people the opportunity to perform in public at The Docks Music Festival and Bathurst Park August Bank Holiday Music Day which in addition to a day of talented local singers, the public joined in the production of a mural painting organised by Louise Penny, who required many young volunteers to help apply paint by hand or foot. The mural is now on the Co-operative Store wall.

Jack Lythaby, Tenor Horn player, tops the bill of the Yvonne Walkerdine Music Bursary Concert supported by Ben Stratford and Rosita da Silva Texeria. The YM Bursary is supported by a collection at the Primary Schools Concert.

The Wydean School Orchestra & Choir, as always, provided a fun evening prior to their European concert tour.

Two concerts were held at the Town Hall; Pillowell Band with the theme chosen by Ian Whitburn was a celebration of World Music, while Bream Band supported by Chepstow Male Choir had their traditional "Last Night of the Proms" patriotic flag waving concert.

Dr Jane Gamble from Memphis has visited Lydney for twelve years for an organ recital which mainly featured composers Dr. Herbert Howells, Parry and Vaughn Williams.

The "Totally Talented" singing competition was held in the Autumn; the Grand Final in November was the highlight of the year with such a quality range of talents competing, with news that last year's winner, Tyler, has audition for "The Voice".

Derek Biddle
Chairman



**COMMUNITY SPORTS
CLUBS**



LYDNEY RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Whilst Premiership rugby continues to play to packed houses and is followed by millions on TV, at national league level, money (or lack of it) makes it increasingly difficult for clubs such as Lydney RFC to operate as in the days when Rugby was a truly amateur sport. We are heavily dependent upon our volunteers and local support to maintain the Club's facilities in order to provide the sport and entertainment that has often been dubbed as the 'Pride of Lydney'.

The officials of the Club, along with the support of a team of volunteers (and in the case of junior rugby - many parents), are pleased to report that the first team remains competitive in National League 3 South West. The Lydney United team is becoming the vital development side for the future of senior rugby in the Town, and we are looking to recruit new talent via this route. The Mini and Junior sections continue to provide excellent coaching and competitions for the young people, we regularly see well over 100 youngsters taking part.

As always, it is the aim of the Club to play at the highest possible level in the leagues and in order to achieve this we work tirelessly to encourage young people to become involved and hope that we can identify and develop the next generation of Owen Farrells.

In addition to the First and the United teams our current mini and youth teams are:-

- Under 7s to Under 11s playing Mini Rugby
- Under 12s & 13s playing Midi Rugby
- Under 14s & 15s playing Youth Rugby

Unfortunately, as is the national trend, our under 17s are struggling with very low numbers.

However, on a very positive note this season has seen the foundation of a Girls Section, catering for two age levels - U13s and U15s. The support for this venture is already very encouraging and we look forward to continuing to expand this important new section. We hope that we will qualify for a number of grants to assist the growth of this important new section.

With the help and support of the local RFU Community Rugby Coach Ceri Large, we are in the process of building new relationships/links with The Dean Academy and Wyedean School to further develop interest in the game amongst our younger community.

We held our last Lydney Mini Festival for Mini Rugby teams from all over Gloucestershire in October 2016. In March we held a very successful under 11s County Festival on the Rec for Gloucestershire Rugby Football Union. This was so successful that we have been asked to host it again.

One sour note is that the Lydney Recreation Trust ground where the above Festivals take place and upon which the Club depends heavily is blighted by the constant issue of dog fouling. The future of rugby festivals being held on the Rec is under threat, the Club is now working with the Lydney Recreation Trust to find a solution to what has become an unpleasant, potentially dangerous and costly nuisance.

In order to enable our children to continue to be able to use the Rec for that which it was intended, we appeal to all dog walkers to act responsibly and 'pick up' after their animals. The Authorities are looking to name and shame offenders, who may also be subject to fines of up to £1000.

We appreciate the assistance and support given by Lydney Town Council, the Lydney Recreation Trust and the local community. We believe that good sports facilities, and Lydney RFC in particular, are at the very heart of our society, long may it continue.

*Derek Pomeroy
Club President*





Annual Report 2017

The Tennis Club continues to thrive, with total membership just under 200 at the end of 2016. There is an almost even split between those aged 5-17 and those 18+.

We continue to provide a full programme of social, competitive and coached events throughout the week which runs all year round and which caters for all ages of player. The development of our programme over the past few years was one of the reasons the Club achieved 'Gloucestershire Tennis Club of the Year' at the end of 2014. In addition to 2 of its senior teams gaining promotion at the end of the 2016 playing season, along with its Winter League Mixed Team, the Club also received 2 awards at the 'Gloucestershire LTA AGM' last December: For 'Lifetime Achievement', awarded to our Life President, Maisie Hoggard and for the 'Mary Eyre County Junior Award', awarded to club junior, George Davies. Our club coach, Rachael Wintle, also came 3rd in the category of 'Gloucestershire Coach of the Year'.

For the forthcoming season, we shall be entering 7 junior teams into the Gloucestershire leagues. This is a great achievement for Lydney. With 45 Tennis Clubs in Gloucestershire, Lydney is in the top 6 for the number of junior teams entered and will be hosting/visiting teams from as far and wide as Beckford and Lechlade. We shall also be entering 3 ladies and 3 men's teams into the senior leagues. All we need now is settled weather!

The summer season started recently, with an 'Opening Saturday' for club members followed by our first 'Open Day' of 2017, both well attended and rain-free.

With membership numbers buoyant, efforts are also under way to refurbish and improve the club's facilities. The 4 outdoor, floodlit courts will hopefully be cleaned and 2 repainted in the coming weeks, along with both internal and external decoration to the club house and changing areas. In addition the possibility of funding is currently being explored to upgrade certain aspects of the Club's infrastructure.

The Club is looking forward positively to what will hopefully be a successful 2017.

Martin Godwin
Chairman





PARKRUN REPORT **2016/17**

Lydney Parkrun has had an amazing year, we have seen our numbers rising over the last couple of months, with an average of over 90 runners each week. It's always great to see so many people coming and joining in each week, we have all ages and speeds turning up, from the elite runners to those who have to walk more than they run, there is also a baby in a buggy being pushed around by Dad, not to mention the countless other children enjoying running with their parents.



We get many Parkrun tourists visiting us, who all say how lovely the course is, and how they enjoy the pleasant surroundings of Lydney boating lake and the cut along the canal. Some are on holiday in the area, others make a special visit that day to come and join us.

Parkrun is a worldwide 5k run that takes place at 9am every Saturday morning at over 400 locations worldwide. It is FREE to take part, and after registering runners are able to turn up at

any Parkrun to run, walk or volunteer.

At the end of last year we were able to secure funding so we could purchase our own defibrillator, it is hoped at some point we can have this stored in a cabinet near to the Lake so it is accessible 24/7.

Lydney Parkrun teamed up with the Forest of Dean Parkrun on New Year's Day, when 159 runners turned up at the earlier start time of 8:30am to run Lydney Parkrun. After getting soaking wet 119 of them made their way up to Berry Hill to take part in the Forest of Dean Parkrun.



We celebrated our first anniversary on 7th January with plenty of cakes and 23 runners getting a personal best time.

On 4th March we took part in the Great British Spring Clean and collected over 8 black bags full of rubbish from around our course.

We would like to thank members of the Lydney Recreational Trust and Lydney Town Council for their on-going support of Lydney Parkrun, and for providing a non-slip surface for the metal bridge.

Lydney Parkrun is run and supported by volunteers. We always welcome everyone to come along and either help or to take part, full training on all our roles are provided, and if you are interested in taking part then please e-mail lydneyoffice@parkrun.com, find Lydney Parkrun on Facebook, or come down one Saturday morning - we are there from 8:15 am.

Lydney Park Run Team