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Go-Ape

Peddleabikeaway

Lydney Park Estate

—

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Lydney

An Historic Town with its eye on the Future



Lydney is the only Forest Town that can be reached by road, rail and sea. It is situated on the main A48 trunk road from Chepstow in the West, joining the A40 to Gloucester in the East.

The town has easy access through Chepstow to the Old Severn Bridge which then leads via the M4 to South Wales, making both Bristol and London commutable. From Gloucester the M5 is also readily available, leading either North to Birmingham, thence to the M6 and the North-East or South to Devon and Cornwall.

Gloucester, 20 miles east of Lydney is a famous cathedral city with much to offer a visitor, as is Hereford to the North. On the way to Gloucester one will discover Westbury Gardens which were designed in the 17th Century and open to the public daily between Easter and September under the watchful eye of the National Trust.

The market towns of Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth are also within striking distance of Lydney – Monmouth with its ancient fortified bridge, Museum of Nelson relics,

The Kymin (Naval Temple) and so much more and Ross-on-Wye with its authentic market charm, retaining a red stone market house. Nestling on the fringe of the Royal Forest of Dean, an area of outstanding natural beauty, Lydney's accessibility firmly ensures not only a viable industrial existence but a thriving tourist industry.

Visited by those who love to walk quiet tracks through unspoilt woodland, to those seeking historic buildings, historic docks or Roman stately gardens, those who wish to

overlook the magnificent views of the Wye Valley from Symonds Yat 400 feet high crag, 'twitchers' who take pleasure in visiting The International Centre for Birds of Prey at nearby Newent and those with the energy, (and a head for heights) who seek the exhilaration promised at 'Go Ape' zip wire experience, located at nearby Mallards Pike - Lydney and the surrounding area truly has something to offer all!

The History of Lydney

Bronze Age to Modern Day



Retaining many old traditional customs such as 'free' mining and commoners grazing rights, the area also has an industrial heritage which encompasses stone quarrying and timber production.

Even before the Romans there was a settlement at Lydney - Irish elk bones and horns, a grinding quern, spindle whorls (for spinning yarn) and Bronze Age arrow-heads have all been found, indicating a prehistoric community practising arable and pastoral farming.



Although it appears these Celtic people strongly resisted, the Romans became well established, probably due to Lydney being en-route from Gloucester to Caerleon.

By about 300 AD at the Roman Camp at Lydney Park a Hospitium and Bathhouse were built; later in 364 AD a Temple to the local 'healing' god - Nodens was added, many gift offerings have since been found including the well-known Bronze 'Lydney Dog'. This impressive piece of Romano-British sculpture created in



bronze can now be seen at the London Museum

The temple remains one of the most important Roman finds in Britain. When the Romans left the area to the British the settlement moved to the present site of the town, it was the Saxons who later named the settlement Lydeneye, meaning possibly 'traveller's island or 'broad' referring to the Severn.

Up to Stuart times quite large ships were built in Lydney, the first being a frigate named Forester in 1657. The transportation of china clay and



salt made Lydney a very busy port, however the silting up of the river finally ended the town's shipbuilding era, and since then the River Severn has added nearly a mile of new ground to the shore.

The Parish Church of St Mary's, mentioned in the 13th Century, was built in the Early English style, as was Lydney's preaching cross; its monuments and inscriptions show the influence the Bathurst family has had on the town from the 18th century to the present day.

The History of Lydney Continued

Lydney's use as a railway centre (wagons were once made here) diminished with the closing of the Forest of Dean coal mines, but more so with the destruction of the Severn Railway Bridge which was hit by a tanker in 1960 and was subsequently demolished.

John Hylton Watts (1890 –1972) pioneered another form of transport in Lydney – the motor bus. In 1934 he founded Red & White Services (now part of the National Bus Company) and in turn the world-wide United Transport. He and Viscount Bledisloe turned what used to be the 'East Marsh' into a recreational area with Boating Lake by diverting the River Lyd.

Tinplate, said to be the finest in the country also originated from Lydney, Mr Richard Beaumont Thomas, Proprietor, being one of the founders of the Town Hall in 1888.

Lydney remains very proud of its Town Hall. Residents still talk of the dances they have attended there, also the plays/concerts they have seen, the Beatles even played at Lydney Town Hall in the sixties!



Used as a hospital in the 1914 – 1918 War, as a centre for Home Defence in the Second World War this fine building is still fully functional. Boasting a large stage, changing facilities and the largest sprung dance floor in the district it remains the ideal venue for a private party, wedding reception or other social function.

For Booking information please call 01594 842234

Whilst most of the industries which made Lydney what it is today have since gone, they laid the foundations for the town's future growth and prosperity.

Lydney Twinning



The Lydney & District Association Twinning Committee formed many years ago, the aim being to promote links and friendships between our locality and that of the French town of Bréhal in Normandy.

The two committees, French and English, work together to arrange visits – official and private, and to match families, catering for their special needs and circumstances.



Bréhal is a small market town, not dissimilar to Lydney. It is set in a perfect rural setting, the climate is mild and the sea is just a stone's throw away. There is plenty to do for those considering a visit – swimming, sailing, golfing, tennis, horse racing, fishing and wind surfing. Bréhal is famous for its Normandy mussels and salt marsh sheep.

Nearby are the historic sites of; Mont St Michel, Bayeux and the D-Day beaches and museums at Arromanches.

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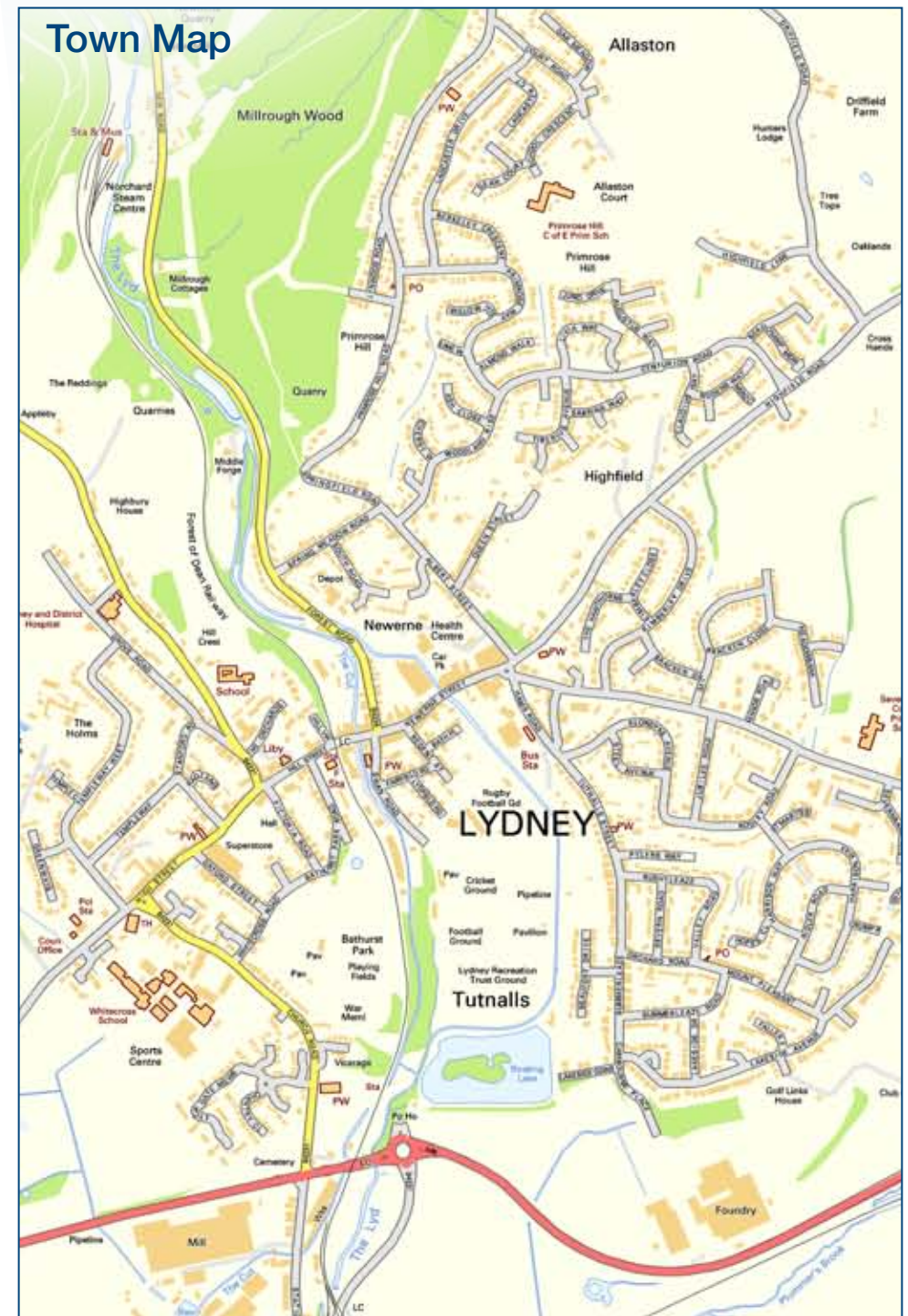
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Lydney Today



Town Map



Lydney

Bathurst Park



In 1892 Charles Bathurst, in honour of his son Viscount Bledisloe's coming of age, made a gift to the people of Lydney, 25 acres of undeveloped land close to the centre of town. Over the coming years the land has been formally landscaped and developed into what is now known as 'Bathurst Park'.

This park is managed by a charitable Trust under the control of Lydney Town Council.

Central to the town, Bathurst Park is bordered on the south side by St Mary's Church, the west side by Church Road, to the north side is Lydney town, east is the railway line which was originally part of the Severn and Wye Valley Railway and is under the ownership of the Dean Forest Railway Co.

The ambience of the park is added to by the regular sights and sounds of steam trains passing close by, with two stations within a few minutes' walk away. Through the centre of the park running, north



to south, is a public tarmacked footpath, originally known as 'The Avenue'. This path was renamed in 1999 - 'André Clément Avenue' this being by way of a tribute to the late Mayor of Bréhal, Normandy, France with whom Lydney Town originally 'twinned'.

Some 10 years ago the pavilion in the park burnt down and was replaced by a new purpose built building which has excellent changing shower and toilet facilities as well as a café.



The café is leased by an independent catering contractor and is open most days serving a selection of hot and cold refreshments and drinks.

The park has a wide selection of sports facilities including; football, rugby, cricket, miniature golf, tennis, and a bowling green (maintained to county standard) with these facilities being used by many local clubs, both junior and senior alike.

Lydney

Local Areas of Play



The children's play area has a good variety of equipment, which is maintained to a very high standard with the children's safety being paramount.

A large area of the park which is not used for sport, is landscaped to a very high standard; there is a pond with fountain, many species of trees, flower borders and displays and extensive manicured lawn areas. All the work and maintenance is carried out by the Town Council staff.



The Park also hosts a firework extravaganza on the 5th November each year.

In 2010 Bathurst Park won first prize in the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association competition.



As well as the children's play facilities sited at Bathurst Park, Lydney also has a number of other purpose built play facilities suited to entertaining children of all ages.





Immediately after the war Lydney was still a working port, notable for being the smallest salt water port in Europe, but after the coal trade had finished in the 1960s, the coal tips and the railway serving it were removed.

The dock survived for a few more years as tropical hardwoods were brought in by barge for the Pine End Plywood factory, that made high grade plywood for boats, planes and cars.

This trade ceased in March 1977 and the docks fell into disrepair with the buildings that once housed small industries, the harbour offices and the Harbour Master's house razed to the ground.

The lock gates at the entrance to the harbour were still in place, but the floodgates that controlled the flow of water into the inner harbour collapsed in 1997, and were replaced by a clay dam, rendering the inner harbour inaccessible to boats.



Nearly all traces of the coal export from the docks vanished except the foundation of the turntable and a stone base of one tip in the inner dock.

However, the designation of the docks as an Ancient Monument in 1985 helped to focus attention towards a possible regeneration.

In 1998, it was recognised that the historic site was in danger of being lost forever, and the Lydney Docks Partnership was formed to facilitate its restoration and regeneration.



With funding from national and local government and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the lock gates were replaced, the harbours dredged of silt and the Victorian stone piers, which were in surprisingly good condition considering they were nearly 200 years old, repaired.

The swing bridge is also to be brought back to life, allowing dredging to commence in the canal to provide new mooring spaces for yachts.

Sports & Leisure in Lydney



The Bathurst family gave Bathurst Pool to the people of Lydney and Aylburton in October 1920.

In 1999 the local council decided to close the pool as a new indoor pool had opened at Whitecross Leisure Centre, Lydney. There was a large swell of public opinion against this, hence the formation of 'The Friends of Bathurst Pool', a group of like minded volunteers determined to restore the pool to its former glory.

The pool ran reasonably successfully until 2002, but then

for no apparent reason the numbers using the facility dropped which resulted in the site becoming neglected. In 2003 it was agreed to upgrade the site on a major scale. The changing cubicles underwent complete refurbishment, sponsored by local businesses or individuals with strong connections to the pool.

A local artist was also employed to supervise the youth club who painted part of the concrete surround wall with colourful murals, significantly adding to the relaxed feel of the pool.



Year by year the pool has been improved, Autumn 2011 will see the erection of a new toilet block, the funding for which has once again been secured by 'The Friends of Bathurst Pool'. The pool, which opens for at least ten weeks during the summer, is now considered to be one of Gloucestershire's best kept secrets, 'what better way to relax and enjoy a summers afternoon!'

For more information and a list of opening times please visit the following website:

www.bathurstpool.co.uk

Forest Leisure offers a range of sporting activities all under one roof. Activities and facilities on offer include swimming, squash, badminton, tennis and a range of health & fitness classes.

The centre has a large indoor heated swimming pool, sports hall, gymnasium, multi purpose studio, a superb outdoor all weather pitch, several grass pitches suitable for football, rugby and cricket, tennis courts and a well equipped air conditioned fitness suite.

The leisure centre is shared with Whitecross School during the day, which means that the majority of use of the sporting facilities takes place during evenings and weekends but daytime swim sessions are available.

The centre is host to a number of local sports clubs, so whether you are interested in swimming or fitness, martial arts or golf, we are confident that you will find an activity that you will enjoy.

Images of Lydney Recreation Grounds Trust



Reclaimed from what was 'East Marsh', Lydney Recreational Grounds Trust now provides for a range of sporting activities which include;

- Boating/Fishing Lake
- Skate Park
- Tennis Courts
- Football Pitches
- Rugby Pitch
- Cricket Square
- Multi Use Games Area



The aforementioned land is held in 'trust' by Lydney Town Council for the residents of Lydney who continue to use and enjoy both its openness and the facilities provided.

Places of Interest Local Attractions



Lydney Park Estate

Spring Gardens and grounds have evolved over time. The original house at Lydney Park was surrounded by a Pleasure Garden and a large walled garden, this in turn backed onto the Deer Park.

Over time many impressive, exotic and rare trees have been planted by successive generations of the family.

As part of the gardens there is an 8 acre woodland valley with lakes suiting Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Corylopsis and Pieris as well as Magnolias, Acers and Cornus.

Excavation on the Estate in 1805 exposed evidence of settlements dating back to 100BC, a Norman castle and extensive ruins of a Roman Camp including an important Roman Temple site.

Without doubt the best time to visit the gardens is during April and early May when the Rhododendrons and Azaleas are in bloom, and the maples are in new leaf.

Lydney Park Estate is also open on selected days as part of the National Garden Scheme.

Places of Interest

Local Attractions

Taurus Crafts is vibrant visitor centre which celebrates 'creative design and healthy living'. It is situated to the west of Lydney on the A48. The Centre brings together arts, crafts, designer gifts and wholesome food, offering a welcome alternative to the high street experience.

Examples of facilities include;

Taurus Crafts Working Pottery

Open daily. Your chance to throw your own pot, paint your own pot and buy hand-made studio ceramics.

Taurus Crafts Whole-food

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Taurus Crafts Gift Shop

The region's best selection of design led gifts and crafts, with a wide range of fair trade products. Organic and fair trade clothes range also available.

Taurus Crafts

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Taurus Crafts Art Exhibitions

A rolling programme featuring local and up and coming artists' exhibiting work in the Café and Conservatory. Including the Forest Open Studios Exhibition.

Taurus Crafts Activities

Throughout school holidays a wide variety of creative hands-on activities to keep the family entertained. From jewellery to teddy bears and candles to circus skills.

Taurus Crafts Events

An annual programme to keep visitors and locals entertained.

- Health and Beauty Ladies Nights
- Fringe Festival
- Creative Performance
- Summer Arts Project
- Fire Sculpture
- Wild Food Foraging
- Creative Clay Festival

For more information why not visit the website:

www.tauruscrafts.co.uk



The **Dean Forest Railway** is a 4.25-mile (6.8 km) long heritage railway that runs between Lydney and Parkend in the Forest of Dean.

On the 10th June 1808, Royal Assent was given for the line to be built. The Dean Forest Railway is the oldest on the Statute Book that has been in continual use. The route was part of the Severn and Wye Railway which ran from Lydney to Cinderford. The society that operates the line started steam locomotive operations in 1971, and bought the trackbed and line from British Rail in 1982.

Much hard work has been undertaken in restoring the line to what we see today. The present organisation which operates the line between Lydney Junction and Parkend now has stations at St. Mary's Halt, Lydney Town and Norchard but the original aim to extend activities to the site of Speech House Road station is still to be achieved.

Places of Interest

Local Attractions



Go Ape is an exhilarating 'tree-top adventure', a combination of lush, green forest and breathtaking scenery; blended with a smattering of tree-top high wires, tricky crossings (using ladders, walkways, bridges and tunnels made of wood, rope and super-strong wire) and wind-in-your-face zip wires; finished off with a dose of people in search of their inner Tarzan or Jane!

Almost anyone can 'Go Ape'. You don't have to be an adrenalin monkey to enjoy it, but everyone likes a rush and Go Ape's full of them.

Life is so much more fun when you're jumping off a tree-top platform into a cargo net. Some age and height restrictions apply. Situated at Mallards Pike Lake, Go Ape gives you the opportunity to sample spectacular views from the tree-top canopy.



Pedalabikeaway

Based at Cannop on the head of the cycle trails in the beautiful and historic Forest of Dean Pedalabikeaway has something to offer every age group.

There are easy-going family cycle trails or if you are feeling more adventurous then you can grab a mountain bike and go cross-country. Or if you're looking for a buzz, test yourself on the challenging range of downhill routes.

Open daily, ***'there really isn't a better way of seeing the Forest'.***

For more information please visit:
www.pedalabikeaway.co.uk

Out and About



The Forest of Dean with hundreds of miles of disused railways and hard stone roads, is ideal country for outdoor activities including walking, cycling and horse riding. There are several visitor sites offering parking and refreshments with waymarked walking trails, peaceful picnic areas and off-road cycle tracks. The family cycle trail follows the Dean's disused railway network for 11 miles. There are links from the cycle trail to the main towns via well-maintained tracks. Sallow Vallets is a designated area where mountain bikers can use all tracks and trails.

Visit Beechenhurst Lodge and set off exploring the Sculpture Trail including the stunning 'Giant's Chair' or just sit peacefully by Cannop Ponds or Mallard's Pike and take in the scenery.

The Dean, whilst still being a working forest, producing a sustainable yield of timber each year, remains a place of great natural beauty with a rich heritage.

'Why not discover what Lydney and the surrounding area has to offer!'

Contacts

Lydney Town Council

Council Chambers
Claremont House
High Street
Lydney GL15 5DX
Tel: 01594 842234

Forest of Dean District Council

High Street
Coleford GL16 8HG
Tel: 01594 810000

Gloucestershire County Council

Shire Hall
Westgate Street
Gloucester GL1 2TQ
Tel: 01452 425000

Gloucestershire Highways

Imperial Gate Business Park
Corinium Avenue
Barnwood
Gloucester
GL4 3BW
Tel: 08000 514514

Health

Lydney Health Centre

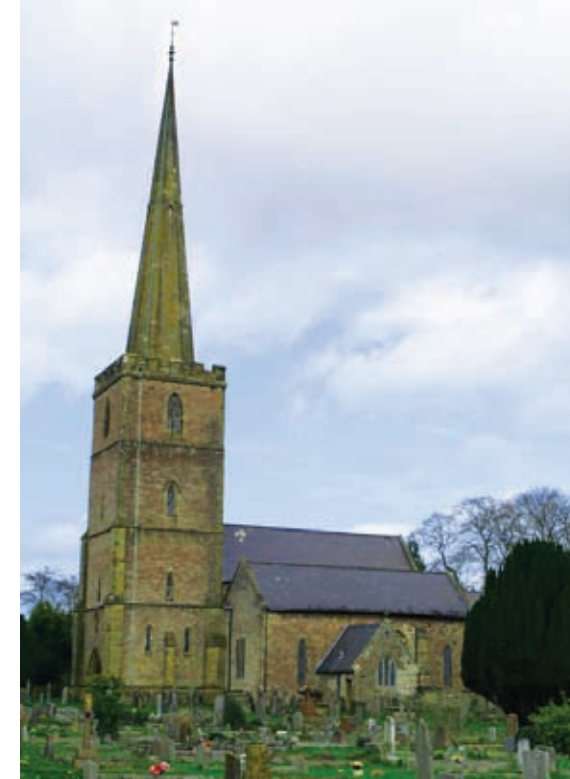
Tel: 01594 842167

Severn Bank Surgery

Tel: 0870 429 9713

Yorkley Health Centre

Tel: 01594 564456



Lydney Churches

St Mary's Church, Church Road

Holy Trinity Church, Primrose Hill

Baptist Church, High Street

Methodist Church, Springfield Road

St Joseph's Church, Highfield

United Reform Church, Tutnalls Street

Community Schools

Lydney CofE Primary School

Tel: 01594 842172

Primrose Hill CofE Primary School

Tel: 01594 843453

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