

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL



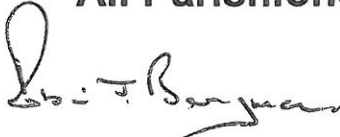
Annual Town Meeting
2010/11

Lydney

Annual Town Meeting

at
The Town Hall, Lydney.
on 18th April 2011 at 7.00 pm

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



Cllr B Berryman
Mayor - Lydney Town Council

AGENDA

(Meeting will be 'called to order' by the Mayor)

1. Apologies
2. Adoption of the Previous Minutes of Annual Town Meeting held on 19th April 2010
3. Matters Arising from those Minutes
4. The Mayor's Annual Report for 2010/11 (*Including Presentation to Miss A J Crane, Winner of the inaugural Mayor's Christmas Card Competition*)
5. The Clerk's Report for 2010/11 (A Selection of Reports will be read in full, others are enclosed for your perusal)
6. Annual Police Report for 2010/11
7. To Receive the following Annual Council Reports:
 - ❖ Planning
 - ❖ Finance & Personnel Committee
8. Presentation of Lydney Town Council Financial Accounts for 2010/11
9. To Receive an Annual Report from County Councillor David Cooksley
10. To Receive an Individual Report from Councillor Bill Osborne
11. To Note the Reports from the Following Charitable Trusts for whom the Town Council are Custodial Trustees:
 - ❖ Bathurst Park
 - ❖ Lydney Recreation Trust
 - ❖ Town Hall Trust
12. To Receive Community Reports
13. Public Question Time/Items submitted by the General Public

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Present:

Lydney Town Council

B Berryman, J A Bevan, D Biddle, M Bowring, R D W Clarke, D Cooksley, T Glastonbury, Mrs J James, W J Osborne, A S Stapleton and A B Tustin

Miss C A Wheeler - Assistant Clerk

Organisations:

Friends of Bathurst Pool, Lydney Dial-a-Ride, 614 (Lydney) SQN Air Training Corps, Friends of Lydney Hospital, Lydney War Memorial Trust Lydney Tennis Club, Lydney Dramatic Society, Lydney Yacht Club, The Victoria Centre, Lydney Festival, Lydney Area in Partnership, Lydney French Twinning Association and Neds Top Residents Action Group

Councillor Glastonbury welcomed all present to the meeting and reminded attendees that questions may only be raised by registered electors of the parish.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Rivers Children's Centre, Primrose Hill C of E School, Lydney Youth Cafe, FORGE, Lydney & District Angling Club, Forest of Dean Sea Cadets, Royal British Legion and Councillors Bonser, Greenwood and Donabie and were duly accepted.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Annual Assembly meeting dated 20 April 2009 were confirmed and approved as a true record and duly signed. Moved by Councillor Osborne, seconded by Councillor Tustin.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – Cllr T Glastonbury

As the end of my year as Chairman of Lydney Town Council and Mayor of Lydney approaches it is with sadness that I have decided not to put my name forward for re-election to those positions. I feel very honoured and proud to have held these posts, but I feel that I cannot continue to give the time and commitment that is needed due to my County Council and District Council work. I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for electing me as Chairman and Mayor. It is something that my wife and I will always remember. I would also like to give my grateful thanks to our Clerk, Sue, for her help and advice. Sue has not enjoyed good health recently and has had to have time off work, I am sure all Councillors will join me in thanking Sue in what has not been an easy year for her. I would also like to thank my wife for all her help and support during the year, and doing my work as well as her own on many occasions in our business.

During Sue's absence our Assistant Clerk, Carol Wheeler, has taken on her work and has done an excellent job. I am sure that this has not been easy for Carol as the workload is very high in the office. Carol never complains or panics, but with the help of Carole Hancock and Kate Heaton sharing the workload, everything runs smoothly. On behalf of all Councillors and myself, I would like to thank all the office staff for their hard work and commitment to Lydney Town Council.

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As I stated this time last year myself and Councillor David Cooksley were working to re-establish the Lydney Traders Group. I am very pleased to say that this has been a great success and a group of very hard working traders have over the past year put together a Traders Group that is the envy of the district. Their first major project was to put on a Christmas event in conjunction with Lydney Town Council Christmas Lights display. Although the weather was against them on the day, it was a great start for a joint Christmas event between the Traders and the Council. This year the Traders have started early with their plans and are having regular discussions with a group of Councillors to plan this year's event.

It has not been easy for the small trader over the last two years and many towns have seen a loss of some of their small shops and Lydney is no exception. However, we have also had some positives. It was good to see the arrival of The Factory Shop and Harry Tuffins in Lydney, also the indoor market in Regents Arcade, which gives the small retailer the chance to test the market without committing to a large sum of money. Already some of the traders who started in the market have now moved to larger premises in town. Our small shops need your help to survive, please support them where you can.

Since last year we have made changes to the way we run the Trusts in the town, namely Lydney Recreation Trust, Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and Lydney Town Hall Trust. All Councillors are now Trustees of all the Trusts' and the Chairman of the Council is Chairman of all the Trusts', whereas before it was a small group of Councillors on each Trust. Councillor Biddle is the Lead Councillor for Lydney Recreation Trust; Councillor Bowring is the Lead Councillor for the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and Councillor Clarke leads Lydney Town Hall Trust. Thank you Cllrs Biddle, Bowring and Clarke for the work you do for these Trusts.

I am pleased to say we have recently refurbished the Gents' toilets in the Town Hall, this made a great difference to this lovely old building, an awful lot of work is needed to restore this building and hopefully bring it back to its former glory. We are continually looking for ways to fund these works and I thank Kate Heaton our Administration Officer for the hard work she puts in on this. I would also like to thank the staff who work at the Town Hall for the hard work they do to keep the Hall looking so clean and tidy. I am sure you will agree it is a credit to them.

I would also like to thank our Head Gardener, James, and all his staff for the way they keep Bathurst Park so beautiful. Also the flower displays in the town, the comments we have from residents and people visiting the Park are a testimony to their hard work.

I would also like to offer my grateful thanks to all the Lydney Town Councillors for the help they have given me during my year as Chairman, and for the sometimes heated debate in the Chamber which is always very healthy. Amongst our Councillors we cover a wide selection of professions, we have retailers, teachers, public transport operators, farmers, commerce, people who work with young people and those in retirement. This is good for a Council as we can call on these skills to help the people we represent.

Thank you one and all.

We have an item seven on the agenda, a report from outside bodies, but I cannot let the opportunity go by without commenting on the wonderful new consulting rooms at Lydney Hospital. This is another great facility this Hospital is providing for the residents of the Forest of

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Dean and I am sure the representative of “The Friends of Lydney Hospital” will comment on this later.

On Sunday 25 April we have our annual Civic Service and I would like to thank Rev Pat Cox for all the hard work she has done in organising this event. We are honoured to have the Bishop of Gloucester at our Civic Service this year. I am also pleased to welcome the “Lydney Training Band” to our service who will play for us during the service and entertain us at the Town Hall reception. I hope as many as possible will attend.

We have managed to keep down the rise in precept this year to 3.5%. This was not an easy task and we have had to make some tough decisions although hopefully not too drastic to have a huge negative effect on the town. From the precept we must fund the Park, the recreation ground, the Town Hall and the Cemetery. We also help to maintain the Docks, staff wages, insurances, annual safety inspections, office running costs, the list goes on and on. A lot of the work on the finance side is done by our Finance Officer, Carole Hancock, not an easy job and I thank her for all her hard work and commitment.

I cannot end without giving a report on the latest stage of the development “East of Lydney”. At a special meeting of the FoDDC planning committee on 30 March an application was heard for “Land South of Lakeside Avenue, Lydney”. This application was for 200 houses comprising phase one “Higher Lydney Park”. This application had provisions for 60% affordable houses (120); the FoDDC policy is 40%. The possibility of a £10 million grant from the HCA (Housing and Community Agency) would help fund the affordable housing.

The members were not happy with the design of the application which included five storey flats. Also they were not happy that the details of the drainage were not for consideration at the meeting (but would come as separate item later) and that the Forest of Dean Drainage Engineer was not satisfied.

The vote was taken and the result was fourteen against with one abstention.

This application will now possibly go to appeal or be re-admitted with amendments.

Finally I once again offer my thanks to all the Town Councillors for the help they have given me during my year as Mayor and their commitment to Lydney Town Council; to Sue, Carol, Carole and Kate for all the help they have given me and their hard work for the Town Council; and the Park and Town Hall staff.

I am very sorry that I will not be Mayor after May this year, but who knows; perhaps in the future I might have the chance of another term of office.

I wish my successor, whoever that may be, a successful term as Mayor or Mayoress and hope they enjoy it as much as I did. And I am sure they will get a great amount of pleasure and satisfaction representing our wonderful Town of Lydney.

Thank you everyone.

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4. LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel and Finance – Cllr M Bowring

Good evening everyone. My name is Martin Bowring and I am the Chairman of Lydney Town Council Personnel and Finance Committee. The other members of this Committee are the Chairman of the Town Council, the Leading Councillors of the Trusts and four nominated Councillors.

As Councillors we take a very keen and pro-active interest in this Committee, as we are spending your money, raised through the Council Tax.

Lydney is extremely fortunate to have a Town Hall, a Cemetery, a recreational ground, a large public park and many other assets, but like all good things they come at a cost, and this cost of keeping them, and maintaining them, is ever increasing.

What Lydney Town Council does not want to do is to reduce what we do for the Town, so we have once again looked very closely to where we can save money and how we can increase the precept by the absolute minimum so as to achieve our aims. This year, 2010-2011, we have increased our precept by just over 3%, which equates in real terms to approximately 6½p per week for a Band “D” property.

We are very aware that it is your money we are spending, but we believe that by setting the budget very carefully, and by spending wisely, we are providing facilities we can not only enjoy today, but to ensure they can be kept and enjoyed in the future.

Each year we set aside a certain amount of money to be given in the form of grants to local organisations. Each request is considered very carefully and a grant is only given when we consider it to be worthwhile and sustainable. We also have annual rising costs which are set nationally and over which we have no control.

This concludes my report, but I will be glad to answer any questions or queries, otherwise I will hand back to the Chairman.

5. INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Councillor W Osborne

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

This evening I would like to take this opportunity to praise the youth of Lydney and to thank the Sea Cadets for their hard work in sprucing up our War Memorial this year. They did an excellent job on a bitterly cold day; here we must also say thank you to Mr & Mrs Grey for supplying warm water for the task. Also, thank you to the Air Cadets who offered to do the job, however, the Sea Cadets beat them to it, but perhaps the Air Cadets could make a note in their diary for next year.....please.

We are indeed fortunate here in Lydney, we have two of the three uniformed cadet forces. I would ask you to support these and any other youth organisations in our town as we must remember the youth of today are the future of our town.

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While praising the youth of our town I would like to mention the pupils of Severnbanks School, some of whom I had the pleasure of meeting during the Citizen's Act of Remembrance on 11 November, 11.00 am at our War Memorial where they read the role of honour and each pupil placed a poppy. Indeed, they were a credit to their school. On that day we were also fortunate as a bugler and Corporal from 1 Rifles came along to take part, remembering their friends and colleagues who did not return from Afghanistan.

Since my report last year my wife and I have had the great honour of being guests of 1 Rifles on three occasions. The first was the unforgettable welcome home parade, where well wishers and family, in the words of one of the soldiers "raised the roof" through Chepstow, followed by a moving presentation of medals by the Duke of Kent back at the barracks.

The second was an invitation to join the troops who served on Operation Howick at a Service of Remembrance in Exeter Cathedral, attended by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, this brought it home to us how much the armed forces value each other as one big family.

The third occasion, equally as memorable, was sounding the retreat with the drums and bugles of the Regiment of Rifles at Beachley barracks. On arrival at the barracks we were greeted by a young officer sporting a black eye and a split eyebrow; he beamed as he explained this was a result of a friendly rugby match the night before.....with Lydney.

We were very pleased to welcome a contingent from 1 Rifles to Lydney as part of their Big Brew Up event outside the Co-Op, they raised £680 for the SAFFA fund, beating the team who were fundraising in Chepstow on the same day. Well done Lydney!

6. Trust Reports

Lydney Recreation Trust – Cllr D Biddle

It doesn't seem that a year ago the ground was drying out from a flood. A small scheme to replace some of the drainage system was carried out, at a cost of approximately £30,000 and it will cost £80,000-£200,000 to extend the scheme to the whole of the ground, however, we will have to wait until we receive S106 funding to complete this work. The Trust has sold the Groundsman's House. It is also in a position to issue formal leases to its tenants and discussions have taken place with K J Toombs regarding the issue of 25 year leases.

I am pleased to report that the Trust has managed to gain funding to purchase a small volcano for the skate park, which will hopefully be installed in the next few weeks. The Trust is also applying for funding to create a multi use games area on the recreation ground, however, as a significant amount of funding is being diverted to the Olympics this is proving to be quite difficult.

Lydney Town Hall Trust – Cllr R D W Clarke

The Town Hall is a significant jewel in the Crown that is Lydney.

It is a prime venue for community events in the Forest of Dean.

In fact, it provides an ideal place for all walks of life.

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We would like to thank especially all our longest standing users:

- Severnside Flower Club
- Lydney Dial-a-Ride
- Lydney and District Drama Society

And the regular bookers:

- Blood Transfusion Service
- Jive Classes
- Events for the Poppy Day Appeal
- Big Band Concerts

And everyone else who has attended and enjoyed an event here.

We would like to welcome the Air Cadets as regular users. We hope this will be the start of a long and mutually beneficial arrangement.

There have been many significant events in this Hall over the last year and everyone who attends from near and far comments on how conducive the venue is. The Hall is valued throughout the District and the South West.

I would mention one particular event, last October, when BBC Radio Gloucestershire came to produce their programme here. It has been reported that on that occasion the packed Hall seemed to glow – a very big successful local event. You see, the all important purpose of a Hall such as this is for its community use.

Could I make a plea therefore that Lydney uses this Victorian gem more and more? To make its hiring more financially appealing we have introduced a three tier pricing system:

- For commercial hire
- For charity/community group hire
- For private hire

The prices are particularly competitive. I have details here for anyone immediately interested. We are particularly keen that the Hall is used more during the day. Again, the charges are very advantageous and competitive.

Could I thank everyone who helps to run the Hall: all the Trustees; Lesley and John our pro-active caretakers. I am always amazed how much extra they put not just into the upkeep but also the running repairs to amenities like the stairs and the blackout system. Those little touches have brought that extra aura to the place, the details that visitors notice.

And finally I would like to thank the Town Hall staff, Carol and Carole, and finally, the Trust's biggest asset: Kate, our Administrative Assistant who oversees the bookings and who investigates funding opportunities for this living building. Thanks Kate you have made a huge difference.

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Please ring up and make a booking forthwith. You will be surprised not only by our new pricing system but also by the service provided.

Mr Melville Watts was pleased to note that the Trust has restructured its hire charges and he called for the charges to be publicised.

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust – Cllr M Bowring

Once again, good evening everyone. Since November 2009 I have been the Lead Councillor for the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust and I would like to present to this assembly my report.

I would like to start by thanking the Head Gardener and his staff for all the work they have done in the park and the cemetery over the past year.

Bathurst Park has always been the jewel in the crown for Lydney Town Council and last season came up to all expectations being greatly admired not only by Lydney residents but also by the many people who visited the park. This coming season however, the gardeners, aware of the financial restraints Lydney Town Council is experiencing (along with all other Councils) are working on a slightly reduced budget, but they have considered it very careful and are sure that they can create the same visual impact, and not reduce the high standard that is expected in the Park.

Over the past years many people have sponsored memorial benches, dedicated to their loved ones, and these benches can be sited in the Cemetery, Park, boating lake, etc. Whilst not trying to detract from these benches, we are now offering an alternative in the form of memorial plaque on the seats already situated around the town.

An example of the flower trough will be able to be seen outside the fire station opposite the British Legion and this one is being dedicated to the service personnel who have lost their lives in recent conflicts. During the last season the Park was used extensively not only by individuals and their families just enjoying themselves, but by many organisations, clubs, etc, and events including such as Churches Together and the Lydney Festival.

Because the Park is used and enjoyed by so many people, we at Lydney Town Council consider the cost of keeping it up to its very high standard to be justified.

Another very successful event to be held at the Park is the November 5th firework display. We do charge a gate fee for this, but we calculate this as near as we can to a break-even, so that this event is not a burden on the Council Tax payer. Last year's event was extremely enjoyable and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council staff, Councillors and their families, the Police, Streetwardens and emergency services to ensure that the event was safe and successful, and we are working towards the same ends this year.

The Council and the Head Gardener are very aware of the escalating cost of replacing and maintaining the Park's machinery and we are all doing our very best to work within the budget and we are also thinking forward to ensure that our budget will suffice these needs in the future. In the meantime the gardeners will ensure the Bathurst Park and the cemetery are kept up to the standards that the people of Lydney have come to expect.

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We are, at the moment, negotiating with McCarthy & Stone for them to sponsor a floral display in the park, and if this is successful we could consider extending it to other sponsors. The Pavilion Cafe has now been under the same management for a couple of years and is working well.

The down side to my report is that we still have the ongoing problems of litter, vandalism, unsociable behaviour, etc in the Park and this unfortunately takes up a great deal of staff time. The Police and the PCSOs are very aware of these problems and they are addressing them.

This concludes my report, but I will gladly answer questions, otherwise I will pass you back to the Chairman.

Mrs P Biddle felt that the Park was exceptional and was saddened to learn that it suffered from vandalism.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

Friends of Lydney Hospital – Mr A Melville R Watts OBE, Chairman

During the year we have appreciated the support of your Council for our District Hospital.

We are pleased to report close co-operation with NHS Gloucestershire during the year, culminating in a major extension to the existing Outpatients Department, which was opened and operational on the 23rd February 2010.

“The Friends” have agreed to donate £200,000 towards the project and the remaining £200,000 funded by NHS Gloucestershire. The extension at Lydney provides an extra five consulting rooms and a treatment room as well as providing better staff facilities.

The extension means that more services can be provided in the Forest of Dean, reducing the need for many patients to have to travel to hospitals in Gloucestershire and Cheltenham for their treatment.

“The Friends” have also contributed to the upgrading of the Theatre, where a new Decontamination Unit has been fitted.

During the last year Mr Lloyd Daniels provided the monies for a Dynamap machine and Mrs Gillian Davies, of Forest Aid Fundraising Shop, Coleford, donated two ECG machines.

The hospital, and its staff, has a proud tradition in providing first rate health services in a caring, supportive and professional environment and we are so pleased that this extension means even more patients will now benefit from this experience.

Cllr Bowring expressed thanks to Mr Melville Watts for all the work undertaken by him and his committee, as he felt that the Town would not possess a hospital were it not for their efforts.

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Lydney War Memorial Trust – Mrs Ruth Richardson, Chair

The Lydney War Memorial Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, near the War Memorial. There are, in fact, two houses and four flats.

The Trust continues to meet each month at the Town Council Chamber. In the last year, one of the Trustees, Mr David Clarke, resigned. He has now been replaced by Mr Frank Bennett, who has kindly agreed to take on the role of Trustee. Attendance at the meetings by the Trustees has been very good with all but one meeting being quorate. Gill Moir continues to act as a clerk for the Trust.

The Trust continues to maintain all six properties to a high standard and during the year various works have been carried out to improve the flats and houses. Because the properties are over eighty years old, maintenance costs are relatively high. The most significant works include replacement and redecoration of the timberwork on the front of the properties and maintenance to the chimney stacks, including the lowering of the height of two of them in line with those on the other properties.

In July 2009, the Quinquennial Survey was carried out. We were pleased that the surveyor noted some significant improvements since the last survey and also that he did not identify any work requiring immediate attention. Any issues requiring attention “as soon as practicable” have been considered and addressed where appropriate or possible at the current time.

After a programme of maintenance, including a review by a structural engineer, complete redecoration, recarpeting and a new boiler, the vacant one bedroom flat was rented in October 2009. All units are now occupied.

The Trust continues to maintain a good relationship with the residents, who can phone the clerk at any time should any problems arise.

Friends of Bathurst Pool – Sheila Berryman

For the third year running the summer season of 2009 for Bathurst Pool was mostly cold, wet and miserable. There were fifteen days when we were unable to open at all because constant rain had reduced the inner car park to mud, but despite this we still ended the season with a surplus of £5,759. A lot of this was generated in the last two weeks of June, which were the best weeks of the season. Total income was up by just under £2,000 on 2008 and expenditure remained almost the same at £10,500.

Gate takings were up and swim club membership was double the previous year which clearly shows that there are a number of adults who enjoy swimming in such peaceful surroundings despite the somewhat cool temperature of the water. The shop was stocked with some different and varied items of confectionery which proved popular and increased the takings from £4,073 in 2008 to £5,683 resulting in a net profit of £3,122.

The non-slip surround that had been planned for the beginning of the season could not be done because the material that was to be used was not compatible with the painted concrete surface. This is something that we are still considering but as yet have not found a company that can complete the job satisfactorily.

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General maintenance has already begun in preparation for the 2010 season with the refurbishment of all tables and chairs, and the changing cubicles being painted in the bright colours that are now synonymous with Bathurst Pool. We hope to put up some decking in the top right hand corner adjacent to the pump house where the concrete is rather worn and extra security in the form of rota spikes is planned for the shop and office where intruders are always a problem.

We have recently attended a presentation by FVAF where Una Barnes from Gloucestershire County Council explained the legalities of the new ISA checks, which come into force on 1st November 2010. Also, Tim Fretter of FVAF reiterated the procedures with regard to the current CRB checks. Following this presentation we are now clear as to which of our staff need to undergo these tests and that also, where in some cases; we can accept portability of the CRB checks.

We still have an enthusiastic band of helpers and once again look forward to our season at Bathurst Pool.

The Victoria Centre – Pearl Biddle

It is hard to believe that the Victoria Centre has been in existence now for thirty four years. It is still housed in the old brick Fire Station in Victoria Road, and rented from the County Council for the princely sum of £1 per year but with all repairs, furnishings, heating and lighting bills etc the responsibility of the Centre.

The aim of this charity, according to the Constitution, is ‘to promote the welfare of the elderly, handicapped and others in need, in any manner which is deemed charitable’ and, indeed, that remains for the Trustees the main objective. The terms of the Lease are equally specific, requiring the building to be used for the community events and not for commercial profit.

The Centre, therefore, under the management of a Board of Trustees, remains true to these dictates and opens for lunch on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a special club on Wednesdays for the Housebound with lunch and entertainment and occasional trips out. It is a sobering thought that for some members this club represents their only outing in the whole week. Other groups also use the building for meeting, such as The Forge, Alcoholics Anonymous, the Flower Club committee, to name but a few.

Over one hundred and twenty lunches are cooked each week on site, fresh and of high quality in a kitchen which has recently gained 4 star rating. The price is set at £3.50 for 2 courses, wine and coffee and it is the aim of the committee to peg this price for the foreseeable future. Our members are of pensionable age, many have to use Dial A Ride to reach the centre so keeping the cost low is of great benefit to them.

To date we have over one hundred members and the number is rising. Over twenty volunteers are involved, three of whom are there for three days per week throughout the year, as chefs and manager, respectively.

We have also embarked in the last two years on a programme of renovation to satisfy the demands of Health & Safety and to provide a setting that is comfortable and appropriate. We are not offering the Ritz but nor do we want our members to feel they are dining out in an institutional establishment.

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All of this good work, of course, is only because of certain vital elements:

- Our team of local volunteers who cook, serve, prepare, clean so willingly and cheerfully
- Our Trustees
- Fund raising, whether in the guise of grants from national or county Trust Funds, our own Town Council, local organisations such as the Rotary Club, The Lions, Forest of Dean Round Table, local Masonic Lodges, local businesses, organised events or simple donations from members or friends
- The good will and support from local people

And the future? We hope to offer soon a session of 'Keep Fit' (for the elderly young) thanks to the sponsorship of the Ginger Gym and perhaps eventually to organise another lunch day. Such plans need time and patience. We shall see.

What we realise, fundamentally, is that the Centre has become over the years an important resource for the town and the Trustees remain very appreciative of all the help that is given.

We extend an open invitation to all Councillors to visit us, perhaps stay to lunch and see how valuable your grant this year has been; the cottage pie is particularly recommended!

Cllr Glastonbury expressed thanks for the work of the committee and its staff.

No 614 (Lydney) Squadron Air Training Corps Report – Prepared by Flight Lieutenant Laurie Clark, Officer Commanding; given by Flight Lieutenant John Parker, Civilian Instructor.

Yet again, it is with great pleasure that 614 Squadron reports to this Assembly its continued development and the very positive progress that it has made in the last year. However, it is fair to say that this last year has not been without some turbulence.

January of this year saw the squadron move its accommodation from the Old Vicarage to here in the Town Hall. In addition to our 2 dedicated rooms the training space that the Town Hall provided is very welcome and is a facility that we make extremely good use of. On this occasion we would like to thank the Town Council for the support that they gave to us during what was a time of need, and particularly to Mrs Kate Heaton who continues to be a most effective focal point.

A few weeks ago, our cadet strength reached an all time record of 49 boys and girls aged from 13 to 18 with new recruits still on the way. At present, active recruiting is of low priority as a result of very limited adult staffing as we currently operate with only 3 adult staff, which is less than a third of our establishment. Consequently, care must be taken to ensure that an excessive cadet to staff ratio does not impede the delivery of the quality training that our young people expect and deserve.

However, irrespective of background difficulties the squadron has maintained a viable and varied training programme. Despite weather and engineering problems cadets have accrued nearly 40 powered flights and nearly 100 glider launches with 4 cadets achieving glider pilot scholarships. In the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme 20 cadets have gained their bronze awards and work is underway to move them forward to their Silver awards. Other activities include sports in which the squadron has been represented at Corps level and adventure training which included Alpine skiing in Bavaria.

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This year saw the Squadron fully involve itself in the BTEC Public Services Award. Currently, we have 20 cadets registered for this qualification which is accepted as having an equivalency of 2 GCSEs. Further still, by completing the Air Training Corps academic syllabus leading to Staff Cadet, 6 cadets have achieved the BTEC First Diploma in aviation studies which is also equivalent to 2 GCSEs; another dozen should qualify within the year. Other areas in which the Squadron has moved forward include the band in which one cadet featured in the Corps band and played before their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, and First Aid where nearly 30 cadets obtained their Heart Start certificates.

Within the community 614 has continued to be active in routine events such as Remembrance Day activities in Lydney, Bream and Yorkley, the selling of Royal British Legion poppies and marshalling at the Fern Committee Speech House bonfire, the Rotary Club half-marathon, Coleford Carnival of Transport and the Dean Forest Railway.

For the future, 614 Squadron must look seriously at its adult staffing as the lack of adult support is the single limiting factor to the Squadron's continuing development. Initiatives are in place to recruit the services of more parents, particularly in the area of producing training material. In any event, 614 Squadron will continue to provide young people with life-long experiences and looks forward to reporting to this Assembly in the future.

Lydney Dramatic Society – Mrs Nancy Moore

Good evening, my name is Nancy Moore and I am the Treasurer of Lydney Dramatic Society. Our group has been very busy over the past twelve months. Our pantomime Hansel & Gretel was very well received. We had three pairs of the eponymous characters, giving opportunities to six budding performers. The cast consisted of a total of sixty thespians on stage, and a support group of ten people off stage.

We put on the classic J.B. Priestly three act play "When we are Married" to a very appreciative audience in August. This gave chances to Tiffany Cooksley 13 years old, Osian Griffiths 15 years old and James Sayer to strut their stuff with the adults with great aplomb. Tiffany also claimed "Best Young Actress" in the Gloucester Drama festival, with Mathew Saturley, Osian Griffiths and Adam Davies receiving nominations for "Best Young Actor". The play "In Need of Care" was also nominated best play, best production and best set. The future of Lydney Dramatic Society seems secure with such talented young actors coming up through the ranks.

Our next production is a two act comedy thriller "Tip-toe through the Tombstones" by Norman Robbins in July.

The society donated £150.00 to Lydney Hospital at the Hospital fete.

The scene setters have entered the Gloucester Drama Festival in June and are currently in rehearsal.

New members are always most welcome, rehearsals for the Christmas Pantomime will start in September.

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL

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Lydney Tennis Club – Mr Martin Godwin, Chairman

After a difficult 2008, due to the many problems caused by the frequent bad weather, 2009 turned out to be a far more positive year. The summer itself was again a damp one but the spring and autumn were both superb and all league matches, the club championships and club tournaments were able to be completed on time and on the days arranged.

Having seen slight decline in membership by the end of 2008, 2009 saw an increase in each category, with senior membership going up from 43 to 51, students from 4 to 10 and junior doubling from 27 to 54. We now have a thriving junior club session each Thursday during the playing season to complement the coaching given by our coach Tim Smart on a Wednesday after school and Sunday morning.

Our links with Whitecross will continue this year, with the school again using the club's facilities to host the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition on June 23rd. The club will again field two ladies and two men's teams in the Glos Summer League in addition to the team entered for the Winter Mixed, the majority of which are played outdoors but, of course, under lights! When the decision has to be made in summer as to whether we enter a team, it always seems the right thing to do but when you end up playing a match on a January night when the wind is howling and the snow is falling, you do ask yourself whether or not it was such a good idea.

Our main focus for improving the club's facilities is the replacement of the older floodlights on Courts 1+2 and I hope next year to be able to report progress in that department.

Lydney Festival – Derek Biddle

2008 was successful, with good funding and weather, especially at the Docks event. However, funding for this year has not been as successful, due in part to the credit crunch. The lack of funding will result in amendments to the event programme. At one point it looked like we may have to cancel the Dock event, but I am pleased to say that SARA and the musicians have saved the day. Whilst Jazz in the Park will not take place this year, we will be helping with the Co-operative event in Bathurst Park on 3 July.

Lydney Area in Partnership – Derek Biddle

It has been a busy year, booklets detailing footpath walks around the town are now available for purchase and we may decide to produce a second book detailing walks in the surrounding area. Extensive discussion has taken place regarding St Mary's bridge, but regrettably no progress has been made. Discussion has also taken place regarding affordable housing in the town; Gloucestershire First have expressed concern regarding the number of unemployed in the town, but the focus may now need to be diverted.

A hydro scheme has been discussed at the latest meeting. Furthermore, funding has been offered to de-silt an area of the canal which could be used to create additional moorings. Rob Millar will be discussing the matter with the Environment Agency.

Planning approval has been awarded for a wind anemometer. We were hoping to obtain 50% funding for the cost of this equipment, however, this funding has now been withdrawn so the scheme may be placed in abeyance.

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Lydney French Twinning Association – Jonathan Williams

2010 is the 19th year since inception.

Exchange visits take place each year alternating between England/France.

2009 there were 32 members from Lydney went to France. This year approximately 30 will be visiting from France.

Fund raising events are held during the year to help with the cost of the “formal dinner” to welcome out guests. Members cover their own costs of visiting France. E.g. Quiz nights, skittles.

Local Primary and Secondary schools are involved from time to time.

Visit to and from Lydney/Brehal Golf Club last year.

Thanks to Council for donation of costs up to £100, towards hire of Lydney Town Hall for this year's events.

Neds Top Residents Action Group – Roger Deeks

The Neds Top Residents Action Group was formed in 2006 in response to the threat of inappropriate development on the escarpment above Lydney and the River Severn. The group has the following aim of:

Protecting and enhancing the natural and build environment of area.

We have been doing this by:

- Valuing the historical and social context that has shaped out communities
- Protecting and enhancing the natural environment
- Protecting and enhancing the build environment
- Supporting actions that improve the quality of the life for local people
- Opposing any actions that will damage the natural or built environment or that will worsen the quality of life for local people

The area is mentioned several times as an important area for conservation in the landscape assessment carried out by Forest of Dean District Council.

The group has 26 active members and is looking to increase the scope of its activities and interests in 2010.

The main activities of the group in the last year have included:

Liaising with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, Natural England, the Environmental Agency other conservation bodied regarding the protection of wildlife. The Neds Top, Horage Wood, Purlieu area is mentioned several times as an important area for conversation in the landscape assessment carried out by Forest of Dean District Council to inform the Landscape Strategy. The area is commonly known as the ‘Purlieu’ meaning ‘on the edge of the Forest’. This location means that it is particularly attractive to buzzards, badgers, foxes, rabbits

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and more recently hares. Of particular concern is damage to the habitat of the slow-worm (*Anguis fragilis*) which is abundant on south facing slope in the area, and bats which are currently being studied.

Encouraging interest, exploration and conservation of the iron age workings on the Horage Wood site and working to protect Tingley Wood and the old Roman Road from intrusive development and damage.

Lobbying for improved roads and safe surfaces for horses. Combating Sat Nav inspired “rat runs”.

Lydney Dial-a-Ride – Derek Biddle

Business grew again last year. We employ 25 people and we are now covering more school runs, however, we need to strike a balance to ensure that we do not lose our core work. Gloucestershire County Council wish to operate a central phone system, which will require us to work in partnership with Gloucester, Newent, etc, so we are unsure how this will impact on Lydney.

Our three shops continue to operate in profit, which usually means that we are able to purchase one new vehicle a year.

The snow in January brought out the best in people and our thanks go to our staff.

Lydney Yacht Club – E Witheridge, Commodore

Last year was marked by a general air of apathy which I think could be attributed in some way to the recession.

Having said this, let’s look at the successes.

Club House

The roof is completed and remedial work was done to the end wall. The Environment Agency has put in writing how pleased they are with the work done. The stalwarts that always turn up for work parties have trimmed back the trees at the rear of the building which should improve the general state of repair. More does need to be done.

The wood burning fire has made a big difference to the main room and makes the club much more pleasant. Gordon Higgs work on the pews is excellent giving us a nice snug area. I wonder if someone might be able to arrange some comfortable fitted cushioning for the pews? If anyone knows where we might find a few matching café tables, please let me know.

The landing staging is nearing completion, the OOD hut is in a much better position, the grounds are much tidier, there are more spaces for boats and trailers etc.

Membership

We currently have around 80 members which represent around 200 people and some 50 boats.

The mix of cruisers, yachts and dinghies is excellent with the addition of a Trimaran which will be amazing to watch.

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Open day

This was with out question one of the best we have had raising considerable money for the club and raising the clubs profile within the town and the Forest.

The open day this year will be on the 19th June to take advantage of the tides to ensure everyone gets to see the boats arriving and to give those that want to, a chance to have a go.

The plan is to provide a higher standard of catering this year.

We already have confirmation of boats arriving from Gloucester and expect more from Portishead, Cardiff, Barry and hopefully one or two more exotic locations.

Summer Cruise

Despite challenges with low tides and rough weather this was a major success. Far from the disasters and dis-harmony of the previous year the fleet stayed largely together for the whole week with some memorable events including the impromptu entertainment at Porlock and Alfresco evening at Watchet and a remarkable engineless win in the Watchet cup.

The 2010 cruise has been planned and will take place at the beginning of August going as far as Clovelly.

Safety Boat

This now has a fitted working radio which means no more scurrying around for missing hand held's or batteries and much more signal.

Dinghy Trail Aways

These were organised informally and I believe were a great success going to Milford Haven and I believe Devon

Development

We hope to improve drainage around the club to further reduce damp and will replace the old boat house as soon as we can find a suitable building.

We are working with the Lydney Partnership and Environment Agency to extend the use of the canal right up to the railway. It is hoped that funding and volunteers can be found to make this a success.

If we can get into use and reduce the dereliction by clearing some of the rough woodland and rave venues we are positive it will have a great impact on tourism into the town. We hope to link up with Dean Forest Railway to provide a steam and sail experience linking the docks more closely to the town.

8. **QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD**

Q – I would like to clarify a number of questions regarding the proof of evidence prepared by Mr T O'Donovan on behalf of Lydney Recreation Trust regarding the planning inquiry relating to Robert Hitchins Ltd. Paragraph 3.2 regarding adult/youth provision proposes to install a drainage system exclusive of the cricket and football pitches. Why does the proposal exclude these pitches and why has the cost been set at £175,000 when Cllr Biddle felt the scheme would cost £80,000-£200,000?

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A – The £175,000 was agreed by the Forest of Dean District Council who negotiates on such matters. Regarding the exclusion, the Trust has already spent £30,000 on a drainage system.

Q – It was said that when the drainage system is improved other teams will be waiting to use the area. Who are the teams?

A – It is felt that the facilities will be used by other clubs who currently use the park (e.g. rugby juniors), as they are unable to use the facilities at the ground due to water logging.

Q – Paragraph 3.11 relates to a proposed £5,000 to improve the car park. In my opinion this figure should be doubled/trebled. Where will the Trust obtain funding from to complete this work?

Comment by member of public – I feel that the problem relates to the water table and the Trust needs to make sure that any scheme is prudent and works.

A – Compounded ash is causing drainage problems; we have carried out verti draining on the land to provide a short term solution, but I believe that there will always be a problem until such time as the problems with the canal are solved.

Q – Has the Council budgeted for doing the streets? Pavements are not being swept which result in leaves composting.

A – We have incorporated funding for weed spraying in the town and we do have litter pickers. However, traders need to be encouraged to play their role, as it used to be customary for shopkeepers to sweep the pavement outside of their shops.

Q – The lack of pavement sweeping gives a poor impression of the town. Furthermore, weeds need to be removed from the garden at the Town Hall, whereas the flower tubs are well maintained.

A – Town Hall staff do weed and plant the garden at the Town Hall.

Q – I have noticed a lack of police presence after 9.30 pm on Friday nights. I also feel that fast food outlets should have their licences taken away if they litter and I now feel intimidated walking through Lydney after 9.30 pm.

A – The new Chief Constable for Gloucestershire Police is very community minded. The lack of Police presence is due to staffing problems which we hope will improve in the future. We have carried out a litter pick and also liaised with the local schools regarding the problem.

Discussion then took place on areas which were perceived to have problems with litter (e.g. Oxford Street); the incorrect disposal of “bagged” dog waste; problems with broken glass, etc. Mr Melville Watts encouraged a return to Civic Pride and stressed that parents of children need to set an example and dispose of their litter correctly.

Q – The timings for the Police meetings are inconvenient and are held at a location out of town. Perhaps it would be advantageous to hold a meeting once a month in a central location?

A – The meetings are organised by the Police; the dates and times for the meetings are published on the Police website.

Q – Is the notice board outside the Co-operative store owned by the Council? The map of the town is out of date.

A – The notice board is in private ownership.

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Q – The inquiry relating to Robert Hitchins Ltd will reconvene on 27 April. How can members of the public attend the inquiry and make their views known? What is the Council's position on the development and I would urge the Council not to be seduced by S106 funding, as the development may result in another Lakeside development and we will not be able to call the developers back and make them address the problem.

A – The Council has always objected to the development and the Council's view has been presented to the Planning Inspector by its representative. Lydney is a marvellous town and the Council has done its best, but it needs residents to support its actions.

9. **CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

MAYORS ANNUAL REPORT - 2011

In May 2010 I was elected Chairman of Lydney Town Council. At that time I stated that I wanted the Council to be open and transparent and I think that we have achieved this.

2010/2011 has been a very difficult year for this Council. The unfortunate departure of the former Town Clerk on ill health grounds has resulted in Council being legally obligated to honour the Local Government Pension Scheme deficit, Council remain mindful of the affect that this has had on the Precept. Whilst previously not available, Lydney Town Council have since been able to enrol in a new insurance scheme which will safe guard against such an occurrence in the future.

I would like to express my thanks to Mrs Carole Hancock and Miss Carol Wheeler for 'holding the fort' during the former Town Clerk's period of extended absence.

In September 2010 Mrs Jayne Smailes joined the Town Council as a 'locum clerk' and was later appointed to the permanent position of Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer. Together with the other members of staff Jayne, who holds CilCa, WWYC and numerous other local government qualifications, commenced the task of putting the Council on the right path, I am pleased to advise much has been achieved already. I would like to thank Jayne and the staff for all their hard work in addressing the number of financial and procedural issues. I would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for their support during what has been a time of immense change.

On the bright side, Bathurst Park won the Gloucestershire Playing Field of the Year Award 2010 and the Council obtained total funding for new play equipment at the mesne.

The Town Council is currently in consultation with 'User' organisations and are considering moving towards that of 'management trustee committee structures' for that of; Lydney Recreational Trust, Bathurst Park Trust and Lydney Town Hall Trust. If this moves forward the Town Council will remain Custodial Trustees however will encourage and embracing any assistance from those of you from the community who would like to become actively involved.

As part of these same discussions, the Town Council is also exploring the possible issue of Commercial Leases to that of the clubs who currently use the Recreational Trust Ground as this would enable them to obtain their own funding and substantially improve facilities, whilst also conforming to Charity Commission guidelines.

As you will no doubt be aware, it appears that Lydney is losing its Police Station, a disappointing decision, especially with the local community expanding in population. Once this building has closed it is unlikely that it will ever re-open and whilst we have been assured that it is the Police's intention to move into the Library we also note that this is a short term commitment and at some date in the future policing in Lydney will need to be considered and addressed in more depth if we are to retain any form of permanent Police presence!

Currently the Mayors of Lydney, Coleford, Newent and Cinderford meet on a regular basis, the success of these meetings are very much based on there being a common goal and a 'united' front, a recent success was the retention of the CCTV cameras.

Lydney Town Council has difficult and exciting times ahead with the introduction of the Localism Bill. This new Bill will amongst other things, change the way in which Planning Applications are considered at 'local level'. In order to be sure that sufficient time and consideration can be given to new topics raised, Council have decided to implement a 'committee structure'. As of May this will mean regular Finance, Planning (and possibly Highway) committee meetings, as well that of the usual monthly Full Council and Charitable Trust Meetings. By forming the aforementioned committees it is hoped that those of you with an interest and given expertise but who may not necessarily have the time to 'stand' as a Councillor may instead consider being Co-opted onto a committee to assist the given committee by providing additional invaluable advice/comment.

In the future I would like the Town Council to hold, advertised 'Councillor Surgeries', this would provide opportunities at differing times throughout the day for the public to attend and speak with Councillors. I would also like to widen our audience by attending other group meetings, such as Probis, WI and Traders Association Meetings in order that Councillors and the Clerk may give PowerPoint Presentations as to the work the Council is currently addressing and the issues which face our community.

As May is to see local elections taking place, it is important that the initial months of a new council encompasses 'in-house' Councillor training sessions, and that those elected make themselves readily available in order that Council can continue to serve the community by making legal and informed decisions; - after all, you would not expect a non qualified person to be appointed to a senior business role and why therefore should Councillors be any different!

Cllr B Berryman
Mayor

Town Clerk's Annual Report 2010/11

As well as the usual challenges one would associate with that of starting a new position - that of familiarising oneself with the locality and community related issues, getting to know the current staff and indeed 15 Councillors - I have also been required to quickly assimilate facts and figures so as to ensure Lydney Town Council have been able to make informed decisions based on fact and legal protocol.

The role of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer/Proper Officer is often likened to that of an 'Office Manager', however the post also involves being that of a legal adviser, project researcher, financial adviser/accountant, personnel officer, charity adviser as well as a host of additional duties which can often include: inspecting play areas, ensuring salt bins are replenished, designing posters or indeed our current Council website (www.lydneytowncouncil.co.uk) - it's true to say there has never been a dull moment!

During the past 8 months it has been necessary for me to concentrate on regularising and updating a number of internal administrative and financial procedures.

There have also been a number of staffing changes; both Mrs Sue Watson (former Town Clerk) and Mrs Carole Hancock (Finance Officer) have retired, Miss Dee Long who assisted me with the finances for approx 3 months and who was instrumental in helping improve accountancy/audit practice within the Council has since left to further her teaching career; for which we wish her every success. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Hilary Exton who has recently been appointed as Financial Officer.

For Miss Carol Wheeler (Assistant Clerk) there has also been no escape, throughout the aforementioned period of immense change, Carol's attention to detail and 'can do' attitude has prevailed. I would therefore like to thank her for providing the much needed support I require in order to ensure the Council Office and the many varied administrative tasks continue to be addressed in an efficient, timely manner. Carol is currently working towards the completion of the Working With Your Council Certificate of Achievement and I am sure that it will not be long before she has attained this accreditation.

I would also like to thank Cllr Charlotte Matthews who has assisted with numerous administrative tasks on a purely voluntary basis when we have been short staffed.

Throughout the year the Town Council Grounds Staff have continued to provide an invaluable service, both to the Council and that of the Charitable Trusts.

As well as their usually daily tasks; which encompasses that of looking after/maintaining areas within our town, the Cemetery, Bathurst Park, the Recreational Ground and Play Areas, litter picking etc, the Ground Staff were heavily involved with organising and assisting at the annual fire work display which was held in Bathurst Park, and during the spell of bad weather were instrumental in clearing our pathways of snow and ice, ensuring a supply of salt was readily accessible within the town.

Whilst not employed directly by the Town Council, the Town Hall Trust staff; Mrs Lesley Richards (Caretaker) and Mr John Aldecoa (Assistant Caretaker) have both worked tirelessly to ensure the Town Hall remains clean and tidy and is readily available to those wishing to book a function, thank you both.

Since commencing my employment in September 2011 I have already addressed/updated the Town Council's Standing Orders and the Financial Regulations, these being the rules which govern Council on a local level, ensuring 'local' practice conforms with both NALC (National Association of Local Councils) guidelines and given audit/accountancy practices. There is also now a Website which enables access to the aforementioned Council Policies, meeting Minutes etc, By continuing to encourage and embrace change, by arranging on-going Councillor and Officer training and exploring alternative working practices and introducing innovative ideas, Lydney Town Council are now better placed to meet the challenges which lay ahead.

Looking towards the future, Lydney Town Council fully accept that it must be forward thinking and proactive in its approach to community and national issues if it is to serve its local community efficiently and effectively.

It is therefore the Town Councils intention to build on our recently laid foundations, to face the challenges associated with change and evolution, to embrace the introduction of the Localism Bill which empowers local communities and to thereby ensure the views and indeed the voice of Lydney is well and truly heard and indeed recognised by both the Principle Authority and other governmental and statutory bodies.

Jayne Smailes

Town Clerk



ANNUAL POLICE REPORT - 2011

Designated officer's for Lydney

PS425 BOURNE - Lydney Sergeant.

PC1771 CROUDACE - Lydney beat Manager.

PCSO49078 Mary SKINNER - Lydney.

PCSO49125 Michael SHUTTLEWORTH - Lydney.

PCSO49218 Daniel WILCE - Aylburton, Alvington and Woolaston.

Statistics.

Crime stats - 1/4/2010 - 1/3/2011 compared to 1/4/2009 - 1/3/2010 - All crime.

LYDNEY EAST

Violence - down 21 crimes, detections down by 13 crimes. Sexual offences - down by 6 crimes, detections down by 2 crimes. Robbery - up 1 crime, detections up by 1 crime. Burglary - down by 1 crime, detections down by 2 crimes. Theft - up by 5 crimes, detections up by 11 crimes.

Fraud - up by 5 crimes, detections up by 1 crime. Criminal damage - down by 1 crime, detections up by 4 crimes. Drugs - down by 5 crimes, detections down by 8 crimes. 30 LESS CRIMES IN TOTAL.

LYDNEY NORTH

Violence - down by 1 crime, detections same. Sexual offences - down by 1 crime, detections same. Burglary - same, detections same. Theft - up by 1 crime, detections down by 1 crime. Criminal damage - down by 3 crimes, detections down by 1 crime. Drugs - down by 1 crime, detections down by 1 crime. 5 LESS CRIMES IN TOTAL.

LYDNEY WEST

Violence - down by 12 crimes, detections down by 10 crimes. Sexual offences - down by 1 crime, detections down by 1 crime. Burglary - up by 2 crimes, detections down by one crime. Theft - up by 33 crimes, detections up by 11 crimes. Fraud - up by 1 crime, detections same. Criminal damage - down by 3 crimes, detections up by one crime. Drugs - same, detections up by 3 crimes.

22 MORE CRIMES IN TOTAL - Whilst analysing the crime trend for the stated time period, I noted that thefts had increased in the areas of Non dwelling burglaries. Vehicle and bike thefts were up and shoplifting at TESCO. Theft at TESCO were happening at varied times through the day and evening. Whereas theft in the other areas were occurring more frequently during the evening and early hours. Out of 71 crimes, 41 remained undetected.

Statistics

Incident stats - 1/4/2010 - 1/3/2010 compared to 1/4/2010 - 1/3/2010.
ALL INCIDENTS OF ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ARE DOWN.

SARA PLANS

There have been numerous SARA plans in place over the last year for Lydney. SARA plans in 2010 focused mainly on anti social behaviour in the following areas; Bathurst Park and Skate Park. Primrose Hill. Harrison Way. The recreational grounds. Shoplifting in Lydney Town Centre. Also anti social driving in Lydney. These were all dealt with and signed off successfully. There is currently one SARA plan running in Lydney. This covers anti social behaviour at Bathurst Park and the Skate Park in Lydney. Also theft of cable from the tennis courts in Lydney. These areas are being patrolled daily by local Police officer's and PCSO's. We have seen a large reduction in problems at the skate park in Lydney.
LYDNEY HAS BEEN PRIORITISED FOR THE WHOLE OF THE YEAR.

PARTNERSHIP WORK

Local PCSO's are working closely with the Youth Café in Lydney. Local SCT has discussed working with the youth offending service reference litter picks in the area. Street wardens have also explored this idea. Local SCT has and will continue to support the Friday night project in Lydney. Local SCT are in close contact with local street wardens. PC1771 Croudace has been in close contact with Carolyn Hinton from Lydney Gateway and The Palace Cinema in Cinderford reference the possibility of a mobile cinema at the Town Hall in Lydney.

EVENTS 2010 - 2011

Lydney Safer community's team have been very busy over the last year. September 2010 - Community day held at the fire station in Lydney. Successful. December 2010 - Youth surveys. Possibility of a mobile cinema is being looked into. To be held at the Town Hall in Lydney. Run by Palace Cinema, Cinderford. January 2011 - Environmental Visual Audit. All issues noted during this audit have been addressed and are being worked on. January 2011 - Present - Tag rugby is being run weekly in local schools. There will be a tournament in May 2011.

February 2011 - Friday night project, Lydney. We have managed to obtain funding to make this sustainable.

March 2011 - Mock court trials orientation/mock trials. Coleford Magistrates Court. Attended by local schools. St. Johns, Berry Hill, Lydney Church of England, Churcham plus 9 other local schools.

March 2011 - Two Rivers Environmental Visual Audit. Police to accompany Two Rivers to gauge any local concerns.

FUTURE PLANS

PCSO's will be staying on the team for the immediate future. Funding will be reviewed in a year and a half. Lydney SCT will be keeping PS425 BOURNE as its Sergeant and PC1771 CROUDACE as its Beat Manager. PC's 2087 JONES and 2027 Hayward will be joining the team as of April

PC1771 Kate Croudace

Annual Planning Committee Report 2010/11

Lydney Town Council considers all planning applications received from Forest of Dean District Council (FODDC) that affect Lydney on a monthly basis. As at the present time the Council does not have a planning committee so they are considered by full council. Any comments that we consider a "material consideration" are then forwarded to FODDC planning dept. If the FODDC planning committee are conducting a site visit on any application affecting Lydney then if possible a Lydney Town Councillor will attend that site visit, if available, and comment on any material considerations.

In 2003 land off the by-pass East of Lydney has been adopted as land for housing and employment. The result is we have seen planning applications passed for up to 1600 homes. Lydney Town Council strongly objected to these planning applications as they considered the infrastructure was unable to sustain this amount of development. The FODDC also refused permission on two of these sites but the Inspector overturned the committees decision at appeal and allowed the applications. As this land had been allocated in the local plan in 2003 for housing development defending refusal of the application is always a risk at appeal.



The development of the land East of Lydney will bring S106 agreement monies from the developers into the town. This will fund many areas in Lydney including; highway improvements, improvements to education (schools), recreational improvements etc. Work has began on the MMC site on the Federal Mogul land, this will bring eighty much needed affordable homes for local people and some shared ownership homes allowing first time buyers to get their foot on the housing ladder. The £16 million project will bring 115 new jobs in the construction phase and the 10 acres of employment land will also bring new jobs. The homes are being built by Kier Partnership Homes, the firm hope to have the first houses completed by November this year and the whole project completed by 2012. The affordable homes will be provided by the Bromford Group who is investing around £5 million.

The Core Strategy is about to go to the Secretary of State for adoption. This has been through the necessary public consultation period. The Core Strategy replaces the old "Local Plan" and shapes the future of the Forest of Dean for the next 15 years.

The Lydney Area Action Plan is now coming to the end of its Public Consultation period. The area action plan will identify the key issues and problems affecting Lydney.

Terry Glastonbury

Member of Lydney Town Council

REPORT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

10/11

I took over as the Finance & Personnel Chair in June 2010, due to the resignation of the previous Chair. It has been a very steep learning curve which, I am sure, will continue.

We have had a number of staff changes during the last twelve months, which have had to be addressed by council:

- The ill health retirement of the Town Clerk
- The resignation of the Finance Officer
- The resignation of the Assistant Caretaker at the Town Hall

All of these staff changes have taken up a lot of the council's time in ensuring that due process is followed.

The ill health retirement of the Clerk raised many issues that needed to be resolved and steps have been taken by the council to ensure that policies and procedures are now in place. The council has taken out an insurance indemnity policy to ensure that the council is now covered for ill health early retirements and has closed its membership of the local government pension scheme to new members.

A new Town Clerk/RFO, who is fully CiLCA qualified, was appointed on a temporary basis in September 2010, having advertised the post the same person was then appointed permanently. Council have also appointed a Finance Assistant with effect from 4 April 2011.

During the interim period we have had a temporary Finance Assistant in post who has worked closely with the Town Clerk to review and address issues with the Council's finances. Contracts of employment have also been reviewed and re-issued in line with NALC guidelines, all policies have been updated. Staff appraisals have been introduced with the Clerk having responsibility for day-to-day issues and any problems being referred to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

A review of the finances has been ongoing over the last 6 months with budgets being scrutinised and savings made in as many areas as possible. The council have had to draw on its General Reserves to meet its budget deficit. However, this has still meant an increase in the precept of 24% to enable the council to meet the cost of the ill health early retirement of the previous Town Clerk.

I would like to thank the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and temporary Finance Assistant for all their hard work and dedication over this very difficult time. I would also like to thank other members of the Finance & Personnel Committee for all their support and hard work and for attending many meetings, well in excess of the scheduled ones, which have been needed to address the many issues over the last 12 months.

Cllr J James

Chairman

Finance and Personnel Committee

Financial Report – Annual Town Meeting

Included as part of this year's Annual Report there is a comparative breakdown of the Town Council's income and expenditure figures against that of the previous year.

Also included, is a copy of the Parts 1 & 2 of the Annual Audit Return, this is the documentation council has returned to the audit commission in respect of year end.

Part 2 shows the responses given by Lydney Town Council in respect to set questions posed, each answer has been quantified where necessary.

There is also a copy of the questions asked of Wildin's Accountants some 7 months ago when basic errors were first identified; there is no question that these issues should have been detected and corrected by Council prior, however in order for any Council to address such issues it firstly needs to be made aware of changes in legislative or financial practice and for this it relies heavily upon the Town Clerk and the Financial Officer or the Internal Auditor, all of whom failed over a period of several years to bring the points shown in the attached report to the attention of the Town Council.

Such basic financial and procedural errors have been contributed in this instance to lack of training, however had the effect of rendering the town council blind to any associated financial 'risk' , it is these 'inherited' financial and procedural issues which the town council, its Officers and I have worked hard over the last 8 months to address and correct.

As part of the aforementioned process Lydney Town Council is ensuring there is a more 'open and transparent' approach to all council related matters, this can be evidenced by the financial information distributed to those requesting information relating to the rise in the Precept for 2011/12.

Lydney Town Council Members fully understand and accept the criticism levied at council for increasing the Precept, however in order to address and correct inherited issues which included a legal obligation to meet that of an employer's liability in respect of an ill health retirement pension deficit, and to continue to meet all of its other financial commitments which includes; ensuring local services are retained, maintaining the town's 'open spaces' and

play provisions, supporting the work of the charitable trusts; the Town Hall, Bathurst Park and the Recreational Ground, continuing to address community issues; such as the sale of Community Buildings, continuing to liaise with other governmental bodies concerning the possible closure of the Police Station, retention of service buses and library services etc, the Town Council was left with no option but to increase its Precept request.

It is important to stress that the approach taken by Members, whilst being far from popular, has now significantly reduced the 'risk' to public money and as such will now allow those members elected in May the opportunity to move council forward in the correctly manner whilst adhering to given accountancy practice.

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL
Income/Expenditure Account - Year Ending 31 March 2011

2009/10	Income	2010/11	
299,670	Precept	310,212	
0	S106	29,192	
0	Recharge	19,705	
0	Misc Income	101,637	
14,171	Cemetery	20,571	
0	Fireworks	3,374	
33	Parks	0	
142	Allotments	150	
211	Christmas Lights	181	
261	Revenue Expenses	0	
302	Interest	12	
0	VAT Repaid	12,097	
314,790			497,131
	Expenditure		
5,010	S137	20	
91,573	Corporate	210,428	
21,761	Revenue Exp's/Admin	116,920	
0	Training	1,654	
0	Allotments	0	
8,861	Christmas Lights	7,938	
455	Play Areas	2,651	
4,665	Litter Collection	5,317	
9,152	Grass Cutting	9,130	
8,521	Cemetery	4,844	
57	Parks	0	
1,358	Amenities	5,529	
3,274	Personnel/Finance	6,145	
0	Planning	0	
0	Contingency	0	
0	Elections	0	
0	Capital Project	0	
0	Grants to other Organisations	3,888	
15,287	PWLB	15,287	
500	Capital Projects (CL)	0	
28,550	Grant - Lydney Town Hall	27,920	
122,976	Grant - Bathurst Park	116,004	
0	Grant - Recreation Trust	13,429	
0	VAT	3,186	
322,000			550,290
-7,210	Net Surplus/Deficit for the year		-53,159
0	Opening Balance		159,409
-7,210	General Fund Balance		106,250

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL
Accounts - Year Ending 31 March 2011

Annual Return - Section 1 (2010/11)

	Last Year	This Year	Difference
1. Balances bought forward	166,620	159,409	-7,211
2. Annual Precept	299,670	310,212	10,542
3. Other Receipts	15,119	186,919	171,800
4. Corporate	91,573	210,428	118,855
5. Loan interest & Capital Repayments	15,287	15,287	0
6. Total Other Repayments	215,140	324,575	109,435
7. Balance C/Fwd	159,409	106,250	-53,159
8. Total Cash and Investments	161,250	95,648	-65,602
9. Total Fixed Assets	657,620	658,520	900
10. Total Borrowings	143,422	136,640	-6,782

The following explanations address variances in excess of 15% in the Annual Return*

3 Whilst it appears this figure has significantly increased this is partly due to:

Virements, closure of Wages A/C, closure of National Savings A/cs and the Extra Interest A/c (approx £85k)

Also inclusion of 'earmarked' Section 106 monies recently received (£29k)

Payment of £19k received from Bathurst Park(Charitable Trust A/c) to that of the Town Council in respect of work carried out by Town Council Staff

4 The significant increase in staff costs relate to:

The former Town Clerk being on long term sick leave which resulted in;

- Council paying an enhancement to Assistant Clerk
- Council employing a temporary Clerical Assistant for 12 weeks
- The former Town Clerk being paid a notice period and termination costs
- Council's employer liability in respect of an ill health pension deficit (part paid this financial year (£71k, second installment to be paid following receipt of 2011/12 Precept)
- Recruitment of 'Acting Clerk'
- Employment of permanent Town Clerk

Payment out due to ill health of £71k

- Resignation / Holiday Pay - Financial Officer
- Employment of temporary Financial Assistant for 10 week period

6,7 & 8 The lack of guidance given previously to Council when compiling the Annual Budget Forecast and applying for the Precept in respect of year 2010/11 has resulted in the necessity for additional funds to be drawn from General Reserves in order to meet this and former years budget deficits.

Amount includes virement from National Savings Account

It is unlikely that General Reserves will be increased during the forthcoming financial year, however the total amount held (£106k after Debtor/Creditor rec.) will remain slightly above the recommended 3 months sum a council is advised to hold in order to meet 3months worth of probable expenditure.

LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL
Accounts - Year Ending 31 March 2011

Fixed Asset Register of Town Council Holdings

Description	Location	Original Cost or Value	Value as at 31.03.2011
<u>Community Assets</u>			
Lydney Cemetery	Church Road	50,000	50,000
Bathurst Outdoor Swimming Pool	Aylburton Road	109,735	157,854
The Mesne - Primrose Hill	Primrose Hill	100,000	100,000
Allotment - South Road	South Road	50,000	50,000
The Oaks	Allastone Road	10,000	10,000
War Memorial	Church Road	2,270	2,719
Play Equipment	Highfield Development	2,320	760
Play Equipment	Primrose Hill	6,074	1,990
Street Furniture	Lydney Town	3,007	248
Christmas Lighting Decorations	Lydney Town	10,185	700
Flower Tiers/Window Boxes	Lydney Town	1,385	567
Noticeboard	Cemetery	984	403
Noticeboard	Town Hall	984	403
		<u>346,944</u>	<u>375,645</u>
<u>Operational Land & Buildings</u>			
Claremont House	Lydney Town	<u>200,000</u>	<u>239,573</u>
		<u>200,000</u>	<u>239,573</u>
<u>Infrastructure Assets</u>			
Pump Serving Swimming Pool	Pool, Aylburton Road		17,222
Chain of Office	Mayors		5,444
Computers/Workstations	Claremont House		0
General Office Contents	Claremont House	79	20
Telephone System	Lydney Town Hall	828	0
Security Monitor	Lydney Town Hall	228	0
Intruder Alarm System	Claremont House	1,326	136
CCTV System	Claremont House	1,020	104
Microwave/Fridge/Cleaner	Claremont House	274	112
Town Clerks Office Furniture	Claremont House	1,556	775
Assistant Clerks Office Furniture	Claremont House	1,516	1,616
Kitchen Area Furniture	Claremont House	1,169	1,246
Chamber Furniture	Claremont House	3,751	3,489
Bespoke Boardroom Table	Claremont House	6,270	6,684
Telephone System	Claremont House	1,299	532
Fire Alarm System	Claremont House	1,739	712
Additional Clerk Office Furniture	Claremont House	569	364
Additional Kitchen Furniture	Claremont House	260	166
Desk & 3 Drawer Pedestal	Claremont House	268	172
Office Chair	Claremont House	300	192
2 x Executive Chair	Claremont House		635
16 x Armchair	Claremont House		2,013
Computer x 3	Claremont House	2,084	1,667
		<u>24,536</u>	<u>43,302</u>
	Sub Total Fixed Assets	<u>571,480</u>	<u>658,520</u>

Section 2 – Annual governance statement

We acknowledge as the members of LYDNEY TOWN COUNCIL our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2011, that:

	Agreed – Yes or No*	'Yes' means that the council:
1 We have approved the accounting statements prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations and proper practices.	YES	prepared its accounting statements in the way prescribed by law.
2 We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	NO	made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3 We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the council to conduct its business or on its finances.	NO	has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.
4 We have provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES	during the year has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about the council's accounts.
5 We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the council and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	NO	considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6 We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control systems.	NO	arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of the council.
7 We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	SEE ATTACHED	responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8 We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the council and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	YES	disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9 Trust funds (including charitable) – in our capacity as the sole managing trustee we have discharged our responsibility in relation to the accountability for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	YES	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by the body and recorded as minute reference

Full Council 2011/04/11 Item 18
Financial Matters
dated 11/4/2011

Signed by:

Chair [Signature]
dated 11/4/2011

Signed by:

Clerk N Jayne Smiles
dated 11/4/2011

***Note:** Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response that has been given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.

Note: Lydney Town Council employed a CiCA qualified Clerk in September 2010 in order to ensure correct measures were both explained to council and then to help council work towards implementing said. Council are now fully committed to ensuring 'in-house' controls are implemented and that all areas of 'risk' are reviewed and addressed accordingly.

6. Q. We have maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the council accounting records and control system.

A. No

Prior to September 2010 the Financial Officer used RBS Accountancy Package, and whilst a printout was given to Council each month, it was not correctly accompanied by a reconciled Bank Statement.

Other identified areas of weakness are:

- S137 spends were not correctly minuted as a separate entity.
- No staff appraisal system/incorrectly pro-rata employee salary scales
- VAT / Charitable Trust irregularities
- Inadequate insurance provision
- Independent Internal Auditor was not issued with a letter of engagement/audit brief

7. Q. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.

A. None of the aforementioned weaknesses were ever identified by the independent internal auditor – (see copy of letter sent to independent auditor by our current Clerk)

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Lydney Town Council wish to advise that the following areas or 'risk' have now been addressed and that Policies and Procedures have been reviewed and implemented as necessary.

- Standing Orders **Reviewed – copy issued to all Councillors Sept 2010**
- Financial Regs **Reviewed & Amended – copy issued to all Councillors Sept 2010**
- Remit of Committee document, which outlines each committees duties/responsibilities
Issued Nov 2010
- Good employment guide (NALC) and Good Councillor Guide - **issued to all Councillors**
- Insurance Policies / Asset Register **Reviewed**



Acting Town Clerk:
Mrs J Smailes

Assistant Clerk: Miss C Wheeler

Town Council of Lydney

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

Telephone: (01594) 842234

Fax: (01594) 842312

11 November 2010

Private and Confidential

Mr R Lewis
Wilden & Co
King's Building
Lydney
Gloucestershire
GL15 5HE

Dear Mr Lewis,

Re: Independent Auditors Report in respect of Lydney Town Council's EOY Accounts

For a number of years Wilden & Co have been appointed Independent Internal Auditor by the Town Council and as such have completed Section 4 of the Annual Return, I therefore seek clarification on a number of financial irregularities which I would have expected to have been detected as part of this internal audit process.

Firstly, may I inquire as to whether you;

- Were asked to complete and return an appointment letter?
- Given a 'brief' (similar to the one attached) which indicated the areas Council expected to be addressed as part of the internal audit process?
- Were you provided with a copy of the Town Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Asset Register and Insurance Policy details?

The Annual Return requires that the Independent Internal Auditor answers to the following points;

B. Council's financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriate for.

- Did the independent auditor personally visit the offices to perform a 'sample' check i.e. invoice against cheque book stub against monthly payment sheet against bank reconciliation?
- Where any of these payments cross checked with the Minutes to ensure that Council had approved such expenditure?
- Why had it not been detected that the Monthly Payment Schedule omitted to include salary payment details?



King's Buildings, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 5HE
Telephone: (01594) 842520
Fax No: (01594) 842853
website: www.wildin.co.uk
email: wildin@btinternet.com

OUR REF:

RLL/L165B

YOUR REF:

DATE:

24 November 2010

Miss Jayne Smailes
Acting Clerk
Town Council of Lydney
Council Chambers
Claremont House
High Street
Lydney
Glos
GL15 5DX



Dear Miss Smailes

Independent Auditors Report

Thank you for your letter dated 11 November 2010. We apologise for the delay in replying.



We were asked to produce a Letter of Engagement but no letter of appointment was ever received from the council. We were asked to produce a letter commenting on the accounting systems and internal control procedures which you have no doubt seen. We were not presented with the document confirming the work carried out in relation to the 'independent audit' and to be signed by the Independent Internal Auditor (a specimen supplied by yourself).



We were not provided with a copy of the Town Council's standing orders, financial regulations and insurance policy details. A schedule was provided each year of the Asset Register. Copies of the insurance policies and schedules we understood were provided to the auditors Moore Stephens, Chartered Accountants. We were also not provided with a comprehensive internal audit programme as included with your letter.

B.

A sample of purchase invoices were checked to the monthly payments sheet, that the correct nominal codes has been designated and that the invoices were recorded on the 'invoices due for payment – monthly finance' sheet. Payment of these invoices was checked to the bank statements and approval confirmed with Council minutes. We understand that the monthly payment schedule was produced to enable the councillors to approve payments to external supplies. As wages were not 'external' in the same sense, the payroll being run and controlled internally we were not aware that salary payments were to be included for council approval.



C.

Head Groundsman Annual Report

2010 -2011

Bathurst Park

The flower beds in the Bathurst Park are just starting to look beautiful; we are pleased to have received many comments throughout the year from both local residents and visitors to the area.



In order to try and ensure such floral displays and reduce cost, we have re-used the winter/spring polyanthus within the gardens and this seems to be working well.

The fountain continues to be the central focal point and is working well despite sustaining some vandalism during the cold spell which made it accessible as the pond had frozen over. We continue to care for goldfish and Koi carp, which are checked frequently for any potential health issues, we also feed the fish during the warmer months.



As part of our duties we also ensure the Sports Pitches, Tennis Courts, Skate Park and Lake are inspected daily and remain fit for purpose. We are pleased to note an increase in usage of the aforementioned facilities; the pitches are now being used by the juniors which enables the ground to recover better between matches.

We also found that by roping off the cricket wicket area during the season it helped lower the maintenance time.

The Bowls Club have also expressed their delight saying that the bowling green has been kept to a 'county standard' despite reducing the cuts to twice weekly instead of three times per week.

As always there is a necessity to ensure the servicing and maintenance of the machinery remains of paramount importance if we are to continue to meet our commitments, therefore we try and ensure that as much of the machinery as possible is annually serviced through that of the winter months. Likewise, when we experience poor weather it is important to utilise this time by painting and



restoring the many benches, park furniture and play equipment; this helps preserve the items and increases their life span, again reducing expenditure.

Recently the Council has purchased a new set of swings for the park which are situated just past the Band Stand.

I am also pleased to announce that our hard work has paid off as we have won the award for the 'Best Park and Playing Fields in Gloucestershire'. It is great to be recognised for the work that we do, we will continue to strive to attain/maintain these high standards, who knows we may win again next year!!



Around the Town

Around the town we have decided to keep the polyanthus in the tubs and will now add summer bedding plants in due course.

The Bus Shelter at the end of Templeway West has been given a good clean and a lick of paint and the missing glass has now been replaced. We also have a number of benches to refurbish and these will be attended to in the summer months.

During the periods of snow we helped with the gritting/clearing of the paths and roads within the town, even managing to ensure cattle feed lorries made it to certain destinations down treacherous country lanes!

We have, when time allows, been trying to help keep the town clean and tidy and as such have been out and about litter picking at the train station and other areas around the town.

We have recently taken over the maintenance of two new play areas within the town, these will now be added to both our grass cutting schedule and our equipment/ROSPA safety checks.

Cemeteries

Tommy, one of our members of staff, is based in the Cemetery as much as is possible. Recently Tommy has been very busy weeding and clearing the cemetery paths and keeping the lawns edged. In the summer months we are hoping to be able to smarten up the entrance by restoring and painting the decorative gates.

Generally

We are constantly re-evaluating the way in which we work, striving to give you the best value for money and the best service for Lydney. Those of you who visit the Bathurst Park regularly may have noticed that we are gradually filling in the larger flower beds and/or grassing them over. This action will allow us to improve the smaller beds, ensuring they continue to look colourful and enabling us to reduce labour in Bathurst Park so that our services can be utilised elsewhere within the town.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my team; Tommy, Trevor, Ryan, Corrine and Jeremy, who helps us one morning a week on a voluntary basis, for all of their hard work throughout the year.

James Young
Head Groundsman

Gloucestershire County Council report 2010/11

Population	c 600k
Councillors	63 elected members
Districts	6
Towns/parishes	260

GCC is committed to a Sustainable Community Strategy.

Heavily engaged in implementing necessary efficiencies.

Many County-owned buildings made available for Community transfer.

Some grants and support offered for Community groups.

GCC has received £1.6m from Central Government to help repair pot-hole damage to County's roads. Traffic improvement schemes are now curtailed.

The Waste Core Strategy is committed to achieving a minimum of 60% recycling by 2020.

Funding for extra police extended to 2013.

Four new Fire and Rescue facilities confirmed for county; one to include a 'Life Skills' centre.

Supporting older and vulnerable people remains a priority with provision of more efficient delivery.

The County Council, now being the responsible provider of community transport with concessionary fares, has identified areas needing re-assessment and implemented improvements accordingly.

Young people's services have been addressed to concentrate more funding for youngsters who are considered to be more at risk.

The Future

With reducing contributions from central government and spiralling operational costs, the County Council has had to work extremely hard to fulfil its remit of providing 'front line' services to the community whilst maintaining the most affective and efficient use of public money. The recent County budget announcement has been generally accepted as being a fair and appropriate one for the ensuing year and GCC are committed to continue to provide best value for money in the counties regions.

Cllr David Cooksley

INDIVIDUAL REPORT

This year I have been given a title, that of War Memorial Officer for the National War Memorial Trust, an honorary position I hasten to add.

The aim of the Trust is to bring all the Nations War Memorials up to date before their centenary in 2018. Lydney's, thanks to complete renovations in 2005, is in pretty good condition, there has been a word missing from the top but this is in hand and will be corrected shortly, and with our Cadet forces annual clean up should stay a credit to our town for many years.

The annual Citizens Act of Remembrance at 11am on 11th November 2010 was well attended, the pupils of Severnbanks Shool were word perfect as they read the role of honour and placed a poppy for each of our servicemen named on the memorial. We were joined by Officers and Riflemen from 1st Rifles who remembered their fallen comrades and a wreath was laid on their behalf by Major Kitson,

As we sit here tonight they are beginning their 6 month tour of duty in Afganistan, I'm sure we all wish them well, and a safe return.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my mentor, when I decided that come hell or high water the war memorial should be renovated, he made sure every detail was recorded for posterity, he even advised the stone mason on his daily inspections, Melville we miss you.

Clrr W Osborne





Secretary: Mrs Jayne Smailes

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust

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

Telephone: 01594 842234

Fax: 01594 842312

E-mail: lydneytc@btconnect.com

Registered Charity No: 298305

2010-2011 Annual Report from Cllr Martin Bowring, Lead Councillor for the Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust

During the past year the park has been kept up to a very high standard in every respect, thanks to the on going efforts of our dedicated ground staff.

Apart from all the usual maintenance, we have this year replaced and renewed some of the play equipment. We consider that it is very important in order to provide a varied and safe environment in which children may play.

Besides all the varied sport that is played in the park, we try our best to accommodate other parties who would like to use the park for other activities, e.g. Churches Together for their outdoor services, and many others.



We held our firework display on November 5th, and although this must have been one of the wettest evenings of the year, with non-stop pouring rain, the event was very well supported with the gate fees only falling marginally short of our breakeven target. I would like to thank the park and Council staff, and the Councillors who braved the weather to assist with this event and ensure its success.

The Park Trustees were very pleased that this year the developers McCarthy & Stone sponsored a floral display in the park. This display is situated to the east of the fountain facing their development.

This year Bathurst Park entered the Gloucestershire Playing Fields competition. This competition is judged on all aspects that go to make an excellent playing field, including:-

- Variety of sports that can be played within the one park
- Condition of play areas
- General ambience of the park
- Changing/showering facilities
- Relation of park to town centre, and many others

I attended the AGM of the Playing Fields Association Competition and was extremely pleased when it was announced that Bathurst Park, Lydney had won the first prize. The plaque to commemorate this can be seen on the grassed area to the west of the fountain.

As all Council's budgets have been cut back for this coming year, Lydney Town Council's grant to the Bathurst Park will be reduced. We, as Trustees, have considered this very carefully and having discussed it in great detail with the Council officers and the park staff, are confident that we can make savings with the minimum of impact on the way the park is managed and maintained to ensure that the park may be enjoyed by the people of Lydney for many years to come.

Cllr Martin Bowring

Lead Councillor

Bathurst Park and Recreation Trust



Trust Secretary: Mrs Jayne Smailes

Lydney Recreation Trust

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

Telephone: 01594 842234

Fax: 01594 842312

Registered Charity No: 301569

2010-2011 Annual Report from Cllr Derek Biddle, Lead Councillor for Lydney Recreation Trust

The recreation land south of the Lydney By-pass has had interest for several years from Time & Place as a possible site for their project of an educational road safety practice driving area. The trustees have been very sympathetic to the concept of the centre, but lack of a business plan and any indication of definite funding possibilities from Time & Place has caused concerns. This year it has also become a focus for a possible community owned five hectare Solar PV orchard, but this may have been recently derailed by the Government Review of FITS payments, which may make the project uneconomic.

During the year funding was achieved from Summerfield Trust, together with 20% match funding obtained by the Lydney Youth Sports Group from GCC Youth Capital Grants. Later in the year this group have also been successful in obtaining a 10% match funding grant of £2,521 for a Multi Ball Park, which will soon be in place on the Recreational Trust Ground.



The desire to secure 25 year leases has at long last been cleared and accepted by the Trustees & the Charity Commission for a number of the sports clubs which have used the Rec Trust since 1956. This will clear the way for each club to apply for tenure to improve their facilities and encourage more young people to participate and contribute to sport and a healthy way of life.

*Cllr Derek Biddle
Lead Councillor
Lydney Recreation Trust*

LYDNEY TOWN HALL TRUST

Registered Charity No: 210628

Booking and Trust Administration

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

2010-2011 Annual Report from Cllr David Clarke, Lead Councillor for Lydney Town Hall Trust

To repeat the words of introduction I used last year: "The Town Hall is a significant jewel in the Crown that is Lydney."

This year, the Town Hall has been used on an increasing basis. This is owing to the unfortunate demise of the Community Centre in Naas Lane.

For the last twelve months, our Hall has been used by a variety of organisations, for instance by Pillowell School who thought the venue was "brilliant". They will be coming back. Progressive rock concerts find the place to be just right for purpose.

And though the centre is busier and busier, it is still being used by our regular clients -

- ❖ Lydney Dramatic Club put on their fabulous plays and pantomimes here performing to huge audiences.
- ❖ The Flower Club arrange monthly meetings and events, with national specialists demonstrating, and a large number of enthusiasts attending.
- ❖ The Blood Transfusion Service come here monthly, again offering such a vital service.
- ❖ Jive Classes are increasingly popular.
- ❖ There are Tai Chi Classes. Also, very popular.
- ❖ There are regular concerts and events for the Poppy Day Appeal.
- ❖ There are Keep Fit Classes.
- ❖ There are sessions for Regency Dance
- ❖ In May the Hall will be hosting Zumba Classes through the Wydean Adult Education Service.



- ❖ A wide variety of other uses, e.g. ballroom classes, children's birthday parties, etc.
- ❖ Lydney Registry Office.
- ❖ And of course the Town Hall is home to Lydney-Dial-a-Ride and 614 (Lydney) Squadron, Air Training Corps are established and welcome users. Both organisations find the hall and its facilities ideal.

Because it is getting busier, you will appreciate the hard work and dedication provided by the staff who run the hall.

We are dependent on Lesley for her hard work and to "New John" her assistant. Thank you to them and to "Previous John" who has just retired after a long and arduous service.

Thanks go to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to Lydney Town Council for all their hard work as well.

Our staff really do keep the place in tip top shape. Lydney Town Hall is an elderly building and always requires attention.

As a Trust we have a priority list of work to do both within and outside the building.

We have had an energy survey carried out this year and various strategies are being investigated into energy expenditure. In the survey we were recommended as being more efficient at energy conservation than many similar, older public buildings!

But the old lady (I am talking about LTH) needs a lot of TLC and the Trust is doing its best.

Many of the public who come to use the Town Hall comment about how clean and improved it is.

The Town Hall is an important building in Lydney. It holds memories for many people. The dances, concerts and events they have attended. The people they have met in the building. This space has done its community service very well over the years. I am proud to have been one of its trustees.

Cllr D Clarke

Lead Councillor

Lydney Town Hall Trust

FRIENDS OF BATHURST POOL

ANNUAL REPORT - APRIL 2011

The summer of 2010, as in the previous three years, was very poor, the only really good weather being the last two weeks of June, exactly the same as 2009. Attendance for that period was excellent but after that the weather never really picked up again and the lack of sunshine seriously affected the temperature of the water.

Income for the year exceeded 2009 by £2700, but because of some costly repairs the expenditure increased by £4800 leaving a surplus for the year of £3672.

We were hoping to install some heating in the pool using solar panels before the 2011 season, but having applied for 'green energy funding' through The Forest of Dean District Council, we were then told that all funding had been withdrawn! Following this we arranged a meeting with a representative from a company that supplies a system called 'Heatsave'. This system consists of apparatus and chemicals that enables the water to produce 3 - 4 degrees of heat overnight when the pool is not in use, we hope to go ahead with the purchase of this system in the near future.

Planning permission for a new toilet block, complete with disabled facilities, has now been granted and partial funding has been obtained. Arrangements are being made for this project to commence at the end of the 2011 season.

The large sundeck is due to be renovated in the coming weeks and extra decking will be laid in a small area adjacent to the pump house. All the usual maintenance and painting is to be completed before we open for the Spring Bank Holiday.

'We are once again looking forward to a busy season at Bathurst Pool and trust that the weather will be kind! We would love to meet any new volunteers who could spare a few hours on an occasional basis.'

Shelia Berryman

COMMUNITY REPORTS

Lydney Area in Partnership

Nigel Gibbons launched the Lydney Area Action Plan at the LAiP 2009 AGM but since then the progress has been painfully slow with the second consultation being at Lydney Docks at the Yacht Club Rally/Festival Music Day in June 2010. It appears FODDC have little capacity to progress the work and the delay to the FODDC Core Strategy by at least 3 months will apparently further delay the LAAP. The Wind Anemometer gained planning permission in January 2010 and an Expression of Interest for LAGS funding has been granted, subject to the LAGS Board wishing to see more public consultation and a 20% match funding. The latter is however proving difficult to raise in this current climate. Recently a company, Green Trust Wind, specialising in wind energy has revisited the work for the wind generation completed by Kierson Wise. They will then decide if they consider the project, with all its constraints, will give an economic return. GTW reported in November that they considered the buffer of 400 metres between the proposed 1.5Mkw wind turbine and the nearest houses was not sufficient and recommended the project be shelved, as a smaller turbine would not be economical as the infrastructure expenses are very high.

The Lydney Co-op is investigating the feasibility of a Hydro Scheme in the river Lyd close to the store. This has stimulated the revisiting of the work completed by Kierson Wise on a small Hydro Scheme at New Mills Forge for a small Archimedes turbine of 9.5kw which would produce £8k-£10k annually. The riparian owners Lydney Park have given their permission in principle to install a turbine as long as the stonework of the dam is not affected together with the Environment Agency allowing use of the water as Archimedes turbines are slow turning and considered fish friendly.

Rob Millar of the Environment Agency attended several meetings concerned with the offer from the Inland Drainage Board of a £10k grant and some manpower to clear weed and mud creating more moorings in the canal. It has resulted in the EA carrying out a full survey of the mud depth and heavy metal content, as well as the state of repair of the swing bridge. There is still a great deal of repair work to be undertaken to the second basin which would enhance the moorings. At a recent Lydney Docks meeting it has been agreed that the Yacht Club will attempt to gain planning permission and necessary finance for toilets and café for public use on land in the Yacht Club compound.

During the year Louise Curry, the Manager of Lydney Dial A Ride, outlined the possible countywide amalgamation of the DARs as advocated by the GCC in the search for more efficiency. She reported that Lydney DAR had taken on Social Enterprise work on a full market return basis to maximise full use of the transport for the community.

Derek Biddle

Trustee

LYDNEY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION BRANCH



The Lydney Branch, which is the welfare arm of the local Royal British Legion organisation, continues to play its part in addressing the needs of ex-service personnel and their dependents in the Lydney and Forest of Dean area. We have an active Welfare committee which has recently forged links with the other service welfare organisations at Beachley Barracks and are actively engaged in assisting men and their dependants from The Rifles. These works are ongoing and are unlikely to diminish.

We also have a very lively Poppy Appeal team who, for the past several years, have broken records in the local collections. This team is active year round and quite recently staged a concert at Lydney Town Hall which was graced with the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of Gloucestershire Dame Janet Trotter, Lord Bledisloe, the Mayor of Lydney and other civic dignitaries.

After a successful Armistice Day parade a small deputation from the Branch met Council Officers and Members and agreed that the Annual Parade was in reality a Civic Occasion and determined on a joint planning strategy for this event. We look forward to the success of this strategy and the continued co-operation for the foreseeable future of the Town Council of Lydney.

Hiley J Warren
Honorary Branch Secretary

LYDNEY WAR MEMORIAL TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

The Lydney War Memorial Trust is the body responsible for the maintenance and administration of the almshouses in Church Road, Lydney, near the War Memorial. There are, in fact, two houses and four flats.

The Trust continues to meet each month at the Town Council Chamber. In the last year, all the Trustees remained the same. Attendance at the meetings by the Trustees has been excellent with all meetings being quorate. Gill Moir continues to act as a clerk for the Trust.

The Trust continues to maintain all six properties to a high standard and during the year various works have been carried out to improve the flats and houses. Because the properties are over eighty years old, maintenance costs are relatively high. The most significant works include re-laying the paths and patios and replacement of one of the front windows.

The last Quinquennial Survey was carried out in July 2009. We were pleased that the surveyor noted some significant improvements since the last survey and also that he did not identify any work requiring immediate attention. Any issues requiring attention "as soon as practicable" have been considered and addressed where appropriate or possible at the current time. The other points raised are being reviewed and addressed, where appropriate, over time.

The Trust continues to maintain a good relationship with the residents, who can phone the clerk at any time should any problems arise. There has been no change of occupancy during the last year.

Ruth Richardson (Chair)

Friends of Lydney Hospital

Registered Charity No. 277785



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We wish to acknowledge the continuing support provided to the Friends by the Lydney Town Council, which is greatly appreciated.

There has been close co-operation between the Friends and the Gloucestershire PCT throughout the year, which has enabled the hospital to benefit from an extension of its services to the local community. Although the extension to the Outpatients Department was completed in the previous reporting period, the benefits accruing from this joint funded enterprise have only become truly apparent over the past year. It is particularly appropriate that the new facilities have been named after our Founder and long time Chairman, Melville Watts OBE whose efforts on behalf of the hospital were legendary.

In recent months a number of minor projects of benefit to both staff and patients, have been completed. Once again, these projects have been funded jointly by the Friends and the PCT, with the Friends providing the larger share totalling in excess of £33,000. Of particular benefit to local residents is the provision of a Relatives Room where close family of seriously ill patients can stay overnight in relative comfort and privacy.

Earlier in the year, the Friends provided some much needed medical equipment to enable an increased number of patients to utilise both the theatre and the outpatient clinics. The total cost of these purchases exceeded £30,000, and has greatly assisted local residents in avoiding the need to travel to Gloucester or Cheltenham for their treatment. As NHS funding contracts, we envisage that such purchases will become of even greater importance, and the Friends will continue to engage with the appropriate health care professionals to establish how further assistance can be provided for the benefit of local residents.

The Friends are actively monitoring current anticipated changes to health care provision in the community, and intend to remain closely involved in whatever way appropriate, in order to support the maintenance of a quality hospital facility in the town as a key priority. Any such changes are speculative at the present time, but the Friends will ensure that close liaison is maintained with the Lydney Town Council as and when significant risks or opportunities arise in this regard.

Anthony Midgley
Friends of Lydney Hospital

VICTORIA CENTRE 2011

The Centre is going from strength to strength. Since our report to the Council in 2010 we have made major improvements to the building with a new central heating system and additional toilets. The garden at the rear is paved thanks to the generosity of the Forest of Dean Lions and can be used as an area for lunches and fund raising events.

Membership has increased to such an extent that there is now a waiting list for Thursdays. Tuesday is also well attended with only a few places spare. The Wednesday Club is different still and special since most members come for a longer period and have entertainment and the occasional trip out. The people attending are often housebound and so this day is a very important one for them.

A new development of which we are very proud is the opening of the Centre on Fridays for an exercise session (suitable for the age range) and light lunch. The exercise class is run by Andy Maxted and financed entirely by Ginger Gym in Lydney. Funding from the Forest of Dean Council has enabled us to buy some equipment and fund any member's transport via Dial A Ride. Those who attend are so keen on the benefits that they are starting a Walkers' Club too!

The good will and help from Trust Funds, local organisations, the people of the area and the many volunteers who keep the Centre going, is very obvious and never taken for granted. We remain, as Trustees, very grateful for all this support especially since we rely on fund-raising to maintain the building and, more importantly, to keep the price of the lunches low at £3.50 (Mon, Tues, Wed) and £2.50 on Friday



***Booking for a lunch is essential. Tel
Dean 843418***

No 614 (Lydney) Squadron Air Training Corps Report

April 2011

It is with great pleasure that 614 Squadron is able to report continued, positive progress since we last reported to the Town Council. We still happily occupy the Town Hall for our twice-weekly parades and the expansive training space is a great asset as our cadet membership approaches 50 young boys and young girls. Sadly, we remain very 'top-heavy' with male cadets; this is always disappointing as all cadet opportunities are equally open to girls.

As in previous years, the Squadron's biggest problem has been its shortage of adult staff with all of our activities being managed by, essentially, 2 uniformed officers and a civilian instructor. However, I am pleased to report that our civilian is now in uniform and the 2 most senior cadets are in the process of progressing to the adult staff. Without doubt, 5 adults, all in uniform, will make a big difference to our capacity to offer more to our youngsters.

Membership of the Air Training Corps is all about activity and I am pleased to be able to report another period of achievement, but not without its difficulties. New regulations regarding outdoor activities placed a huge constraint on our Adventurous Training pursuits, technical and weather problems restricted out flying and gliding and other Air Cadet legislation created difficulties in management of a comprehensive training programme. However, difficulties are there to be overcome and we can look back on a wide variety of events including residential camps, air activities, community involvement and adventure. Also, in the academic field cadets continue to progress through their aviation-related subjects to achieve their BTEC Certificates and also their Diplomas in Public Services.

The latter part of the reporting period has seen 614 Squadron take centre stage both within the Air Cadet organisation and also in the community. Within the Cadets, the Squadron was very honoured to be the Bristol and Gloucestershire Wing's representative in the annual Lees and Morris Trophy competition. This award identifies the 'top' Squadron in the country and is a highly prestigious award. Whilst final results are still awaited, all at 614 are very proud at their performance at the recent assessment inspection. A few days later, 614 Squadron formed the major part of a parade of the county's Air Cadets as we marched through the town of Lydney. This event was to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Air Cadets, and the 30th anniversary of 614 Squadron being granted the Freedom of the Town. The day was very successful and we are all very grateful to Lydney Town Council for their assistance.

For the future, 614 Squadron looks to continue its development and to further broaden the range of activities and opportunities that it offers its young members.

Flight Lieutenant Laurie Clark RAFVR(T)

Officer Commanding

VIBE - Lydney Youth Café Annual Report

Open the doors of a building half way down Newerne Street, near to the Co-op, as a 'drop in' Café for young people aged 11-17 of Lydney and surrounding areas and what do you find??? A bunch of interesting young people, who have all sorts of issues relating to being a teenager, who have a lot of valid points to make and who see the world just as it is and who just want to be heard.

So at the Youth Café that's what we try to do, then we work together to find creative solutions to the issues that drive them nuts.

The issues of being a teenager are still the same today as they have always been, but the world we all live in has changed dramatically, and that's where the challenge lies.



At the Youth Café we offer a warm, safe place to hang out, help with homework, leisure activities such as pool, table football, dancing, hot meals or healthy snacks.

We also encourage young people to have a say in how the Youth Café is run and to actively participate in how it is managed.

Over the past 18 months we have raised funds to provide art projects, run workshops on photography and tried our hands at sculpture with wire through which we explored the theme of homelessness. The team of three part time staff have staged a 'prom night', a talent contest and are now teaching members to bake.

Last summer, we joined forces with the team from the Fairtide Centre to stage a pool tournament and 'summer food' tasting days which promoted local business as well as local produce. The members who took part learned new skills and more about their area.

With funding support locally from the Town Council of Lydney, we have provided sessions on drug and alcohol abuse and are about to take part in a 'staying safe' project which will cover everything from how to stop smoking to mobile 'phone safety.

The Forest of Dean Lions have also supported us and with their help we are just about to stage a project to get Lydney singing!!!

GlaxoSmithKline gave us a 'make over', whilst a donation from Forest of Dean Rotary Club helped to buy furniture.

We have also received help from other local companies and businesses and this local support is great recognition of what we are trying to achieve.

Larger project grants from various funding organisations such as the Gloucestershire Community Foundation, the Youth Opportunity Fund and Capital Fund have enabled us to have some essential repairs carried out to the building, to improve the look and feel of the

space and to install a cooker to provide hot healthy meals which the young people help to prepare. A grant from the Midcounties Co-operative has enabled us to buy 'store cupboard' supplies, which will keep our healthy meals programme going for some time.

Funding secured from other grant bodies and support from the Forest of Dean District Council will enable us to cover core costs and continue to provide a service for young people.

Our aim in making changes to the building is to improve the space for young people and alongside this to create an attractive venue for hire to other local groups, or to businesses which might be looking for place to hold a meeting or small function.

In the next few months we aim to establish a skills accreditation scheme to help improve young people's chances of employment, so we would welcome involvement from local businesses with this.

To further develop our ongoing commitment to the future of young people we have formed the Forest Roots & Shoots Partnership with the other three Youth Café Projects in the area. Through this Partnership we aim to create a stronger Youth Café network, share expertise and resources and jointly to work together for the benefit of young people. The Youth Café is also part of the Forest Youth Workers Network through which our staff have received valuable training, advice and support.

However, to continue to develop and move forward especially in light of all the changes that are happening around us, we need to find positive ways to meet the challenges ahead. To do this our aim is to widen the service we offer by opening on other evenings and at weekends.

This means we need we need to recruit volunteers who are prepared to help run sessions, so if you are interested in being part of what we do please get in contact and help make a difference.

Here are some of the things our members said about the Youth Café..

What we like about the Youth Café and what makes us come along each night is the food, the sofa's, the warmth, friends and the staff!!!

If we didn't come we would be out in the cold, or drinking, or causing trouble.

By attending we have learned how to cook, how to communicate, how to make friends, and new creative skills.



Look out for our website www.lydneyyouthcafe.co.uk which will be online soon

Erica Sheppard-Aldecoa - Manager.

Commanding Officer
S/Lt (SCC) Mike Chard RNR
☎ 07890428348

Unit Chairman
Mrs Carol Tiley
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Registered Charity 286701

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“Parvis e glandibus quercus”
Great oaks from acorns grow

I am S/Lt (SCC) Mike Chard RNR the Commanding Officer of TS Royal Forest, the Forest of Dean Sea Cadets. One of the biggest youth organisations in the Forest of Dean. We have a mission statement at TS Royal Forest which is:-

'We aim to encourage young people in achieving their full physical, social and intellectual potential. Ensuring all feel valued and supported by providing them with valuable life skills. Striving to deliver the best opportunities in a challenging, stimulating and supportive nautical themed training environment'.

We take the young people from the Forest and surrounding areas and through adventurous training we to help them towards responsible adulthood by encouraging valuable personal attributes and high standards of conduct, using a nautical theme based on the customs of the Royal Navy.

We are not a recruiting tool for the Armed forces however we do encourage the attitudes that a person looking for a career in the armed forces would need.

Unlike the other cadet and youth organizations we receive no funding from the MOD or government, which is a bit of a lie they gave us £120 last year, not per cadet but for the whole unit. At today's prices you can imagine how far that went.

We take part in many community events such as parades, fundraisers, dinners, sporting events etc. Unfortunately due to fund raising needs we have to spend more time than I would like raising funds for the unit. As you are aware the Forest of Dean is not the most affluent area and carers or parents of cadets sometimes cannot afford to pay for their child to attend all the activities on offer, in these cases the unit pays for these cadets. A typical weeks course can cost anything between £50- £250 with a summer camp costing around £450. We now have over 50 members so you can see how much money we need to raise to fund their activities.

Because of the numbers of cadets we are looking to the future, expanding our unit to include accommodation and extra classes (at the moment we have 5 classes of cadets but only 3 classrooms). Our staff numbers have grown we are now able to teach and qualify a number of subjects and we are looking to become a centre of excellence for the District (the District stretches from Thornbury in the south to Worcester in the north). This will bring hundreds of

young people to the area and will be something for the Forest and especially Lydney to be proud of.

I have lived and worked in the Forest of Dean for 15 years now and have seen a dramatic increase in anti-social behaviour involving the youth of Lydney. Our unit itself has suffered because of this, we have had numerous windows smashed, and most parade nights we spend a good deal of time cleaning up the detritus left behind by the drug and alcohol users, who seem to regard the area around Naas Lane community centre as their meeting place, litter bin and sometimes their toilet!

We have engaged with the youth of Lydney and recruit young people from all walks of life with no discrimination to race, sex, colour or ability.

For some young people, who are perhaps not as gifted at school as others sea cadets is a lifeline we offer real qualifications cadets can use to find a worthwhile career, we have CVQO status which is the equivalent of 5 GCSE's.

The qualifications the cadets earn can be used for the rest of their lives, some cadets have recently used their First Aid qualification when a member of their family was injured at home.

Our achievements for the past year,

- We have purchased two rowing boats and are currently in consultation to use Lydney boating lake rather than going further afield.
- We have increased the boating available to cadets, we are now spending more time on the water than we have in the past 5 years.
- We have entered more competitions than previous years coming second in the District Drill and first in the Piping, cadets won the District football competition & marine engineering competition.
- We have refurbished our armoury, this is now a useful store and a marine engineering workshop.
- Our numbers of young people have increased.
- We have a supporters association, made up of friends, parents etc who assist with transport DIY etc around the unit.
- More cadets have qualified in subjects such as cooking, first aid, Engineering etc than in the past 5 years.
- We have 6 senior cadets enrolled in the CVQO course which will see them gaining 5 GCSE equivalent.
- We take part in the Severn district events, which raises the profile of the sea cadets throughout the district.
- Some staff have undertaken Cadet Vocational qualifications, one member has just finished their degree with the cadets.
- We have organised charity events for Help for Heroes, Children in Need & Red Nose Day.
- We have assisted in the Christmas parade, the Remembrance parade, the Anzac parade & cleaned the town's War Memorial.

We are looking to extend our unit and keep recruiting the young people within the Forest but we do need your support perhaps not monetary support but every penny is welcome!

We need members of the community to join our management committee and supporters association, who meet once a month to share ideas to promote the cadets, raise funds and decide on cadet activities within the community.

We need the support of the community and the council for what we do, the cadets do a great deal for the Forest and especially as we are based here, in Lydney, they deserve recognition for the things they achieve. Unless they get this recognition the cadets feel disheartened and let down.

The staff at the unit continue to work very hard to maintain the high standards set, we do not get paid and we give at least 20hrs per week, we do not seek reward for what we do but hope the cadets will get the recognition and facilities they deserve.

Remember our motto:- "Parvis e glandibus quercus"

Great oaks from acorns grow, however without nutrients, care and guidance these acorns will not.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Chard', written in a cursive style.

Sub-Lieutenant (SCC) M Chard, RNR
Commanding Officer

LYDNEY TENNIS CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 2011

2010 saw the club ticking over reasonably healthily. Although our senior numbers were slightly down, our junior numbers held up very well and in addition to a weekly supervised junior club session, we were able to offer our juniors 3 tournaments during the summer season and this year have entered a junior team in the Aegon Gloucestershire Junior League. We continue to enter 2 Ladies' + 2 Men's teams in the summer league and again entered a team in the Gloucestershire Winter Mixed League.

After the departure of our club coach, Tim Smart, for foreign fields after 6 years, during which time we saw the junior side develop significantly, we now have a new coach in the form of Fraser Drew, who has been a member of the club since the age of 14, a player for our men's 'A' team and the current men's singles champion and who currently coaches at Oxstalls in Gloucester. Fraser has a wealth of ideas to bring to the club to develop the junior side further and also to encourage more adults to either take up the sport again or to start from scratch.

The club will also host and co-run the 'Road to Wimbledon' competition with Whitecross School and our new coach.

There are potentially significant changes under way in which the club is run and works in collaboration with the Recreation Trust and our fellow associations, the most significant, in fact, since I took over as club chairman in 2004. I sincerely hope that next year's report will include progress, not just for the club but for the Trust Associations in general.

Martin Goodwin



Lydney District Amateur Dramatic Society -2011 Annual Report

During the past year Lydney Dramatic Society has had a busy and productive time. We put on the second of a trilogy by Norman Robbins called 'Tiptoe through the Tombstones'. This was a great success and we all had a huge amount of fun and satisfaction performing it.

We then started rehearsals, almost immediately, for our pantomime 'The Dragon of Wantley'. A topical subject dealing with issues of the Forest most appreciated by our audiences.



We are always very well supported by our junior faction 'The Scene Setters'. They performed two plays at the Gloucester 1 Act Play Festival and gained a best actor award for James Symonds, a best supporting actress award for Elinor Brookes and a best director award for Amanda Jamieson.

We are grateful for the facilities and cooperation afforded us by the Town Hall.

Our venue for rehearsals has been changed from the soon to be defunct Community Centre at Naas Lane to the Springfield Chapel in Lydney.

Sheila Jones
Hon Sec

Annual Report from the Neds Top Residents Action Group

The Neds Top Residents Action Group, formed in 2005, has had a busy year working on community issues and improving the local environment. The group has maintained a strong community identity and is preparing to launch a community website in 2011, see: <http://nedstop.com/> . This has been possible because of improved broadband in the area and three houses accessing broadband for the first time. The group have joined the lobby for faster broadband speeds in all parts of the Dean. The website will be used for posting news, general information and hosting a car sharing scheme. The bad weather in December 2010 placed extra pressures on the community with all roads blocked for several days and the web will be used to ensure access to four wheel drive vehicles for the community.

Littering remains a serious problem, particularly 'drive by' dropping of cans and rubbish. The County Council responded to concerns about the condition of the Oldcroft and Old Dam Roads by carrying out a complete resurfacing scheme which has been greatly appreciated. The group contacted the County Council about a lack of signposting and were very pleased when the first ever 'NEDS TOP' sign was erected giving the community a visible marker.

The green energy/sustainability interests of the group have been followed up with discussions about bio heating and composting and two houses have been helped with insulation. In September the growing concerns about the development of Horage Wood and adjacent field being used for a large scale wind turbine culminated in the creation of a larger group Lydney and West Dean Action Group being formed and that group delivered a petition of 450 names to the District Council, petitioning against the scheme and calling for more transparency in the conduct of Lydney Area in Partnership (LAIp). The District Council are formulating a planning policy that will include minimum distances from homes and protection of special landscapes as a result of the petition. The NRAG met with Johnny Lewis from Green Trust Wind who agreed that Horage Wood was an inappropriate place to erect a wind turbine and that the site was too close to homes. The LAiP subsequently committed to not using the site or erecting an anemometer. The group attended a consultation meeting about a green energy community project for Lydney and supported the development of solar energy.

In March 2010 the NRAG made a formal complaint about the conduct of Cllr Derek Biddle and Cllr Marian Winship in the context of the planning application

for a wind anemometer and the leadership of LAiP. The Case against Cllr Winship's participation in the planning process, while a FoDDC representative on LAiP, was considered by a hearing of the Sub-committee of the FoDDC Standards Board, and Cllr Winship was found in breach of the code of conduct and to have brought her office into disrepute. The group attended the meeting and received a gracious apology from Cllr Winship and appreciated that her mistake had been unintended. The case against Cllr Biddle has been investigated and reported by the Council Solicitor but the FoDDC Standards Sub-committee have been concerned that following the investigation the matters now seem materially more serious and are concerned that the sanctions available to them are, if the findings are proven, insufficient given the seriousness of the allegations. They have therefore requested that the matter is heard by a judge at a First Tier Tribunal and this is anticipated in May.

The group took an active part in the lobby to exclude the Forest from the ill-fated Public Bodies Bill.

Attending several meetings and participating in the Speech House demonstration. Priorities for the group in the coming year include:

Working with Gloucestershire Wildlife, CPRE and other conservation groups to protect the landscape and wildlife around Neds Top.

Supporting farm diversification and particularly equine businesses.

Ensuring that the interests of Neds Top and the wider area are fully taken into account in the development of the Lydney Local Plan.

Developing improved access to Neds Top.

Fully utilising the web site.

Ensuring the LAiP, if it continues to exist, develops more open and transparent governance.

Mr R Deeks

Neds Top Residents Action Group

LYDNEY FESTIVAL



BRINGING ARTS, MUSIC AND ENJOYMENT TO THE COMMUNITY



Be it rocking to Elvis, or Neil Diamond in Lydney Town Hall, rolling in the aisle to stand up comedian Jo Caulfield at The Annexe, or, relaxing in the sun on a Sunday afternoon in Bathurst Park listening to a local jazz, blues or a brass band, or perhaps enjoying the more classical sounds of Wydean Orchestra and Gospel choir or Dr Jane Gamble, celebrating the work of local composer Herbert Howells in St Mary's Church.

Lydney Festival has a tonic for all tastes.

Lydney Festival is organised by a small band of volunteers. It aims to bring Music, Arts and Comedy to the community, utilising local talent, as well as bringing in more nationally acclaimed performers.

We encourage young talent with regular concerts by the children from all of the local primary schools.

We enjoyed over an hours concert with local young percussionist

Rhydian Griffiths, (now studying Music at Cardiff.)

We brighten up the day of the saturday shopper with buskers and street theatre, performing outside of the Co-Op. We gave local band, Crash & Berney one of their first 'gigs' before they went on to perform at The O2, in London.

Our Big Picture competition, with regular support from The Co-Op., allows primary school pupils from the area to express themselves in paint and perhaps, see their work displayed around the town.

We work with many local organisations, not least The Lydney Yacht Club,

combining forces for our summer docks extravaganza, with boats from across the 7 seas, folk music and

fun. Thrilling well over 5000 people every year. As a grand finale Forest Brass playing the boats off on Sunday Morning.



Lydney Festival also supports local community projects using our concerts to raise money and promote such organisations as SARA, The Victoria Centre, Lydney Hospital Fete & The Churches Together. The Festival is also grateful for the sponsorship and funding it receives, not least from Lydney Town Council, Mid Counties Co-Op, McCarthy & Stone & various other local businesses.

Lydney Town Council

2010 - 2011 LIST OF COUNCILLORS

MAYOR Mr Robin Berryman Stedman 77, High Street Aylburton Glos GL15 6DE Tel: 01594 842036	Mr James Bevan Dene Hollow Cottage Highfield Lane Lydney Glos Tel: 01594 842146	Mr Derek Biddle Hurst Farm Lydney Glos GL15 4LN Tel: 01594 842180
Mrs Ruth Bonser 24 Forest Road Lydney Glos GL15 5LB Tel: 01594 841813	Mr Martin Bowring 53 Allaston Road Lydney Glos GL15 5SS Tel: 01594 842838	Mr David Clarke Hillside Cottage 15 Primrose Hill Lydney Glos GL15 5SF Tel: 01594 842091
Mr David Cooksley 3a Swan Road Lydney Glos GL15 5RU Tel: 01594 844800	Mrs Tracey Donabie 1 South Road Lydney GL15 5LG Tel: 01594 844491	Mr Terry Glastonbury Tall Pines The Tufts New Road Bream GL15 6HL Tel: 01594 562102
Mr James Greenwood Old Severn Bridge House Purton Lydney GL15 4AX Tel: 01594 842454	Mrs Janice James 3 Bathurst Park Road Lydney GL15 5HG Tel: 01594 843847	Ms Charlotte Matthews Courtend Court Lane Alvington Lydney GL15 6BG Tel: 01595 528295
Mr William Osborne 25 Valley Road Lydney Glos GL15 5QN Tel: 01594 841970	Mr Albert Stapleton 3 Mount Pleasant Lydney Glos GL15 5QE Tel: 01594 841482	Mr A Tustin Resigned
DISTRICT COUNCILLORS Cllrs: Bevan, Biddle (Lydney East) & Cllr Glastonbury (Lydney West) (Details as above)	DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Cllr: Nikki Goodlad 56 Seymour Road Gloucester (Lydney East) GL1 5QD Phone: 01452 380596 E - mail: Nikki.Goodlad@fdean.gov.uk Cllr: A Prest 7 Greenacre Bream (Lydney North) Glos GL15 6AP Phone: 01594 563929 Mobile: 07773775707 Email: Alan.Prest@fdean.gov.uk Cllr: M Winship Severn Lodge Church Lane (Lydney West) Alvington Lydney, Glos GL15 6BQ Phone: 01594 528289 Email: Marion.Winship@fdean.gov.uk	COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr D Cooksley (Details as above)
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL & ASSISTANT CLERK	Mrs Jayne Smailes Town Clerk/RFO/Proper Officer Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: clerk@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk	Miss Carol Wheeler Assistant Clerk Tel: 01594 842234 E-Mail: assistant.clerk@lydneytowncouncil.co.uk