

LYDEARD ST LAWRENCE AND TOLLAND PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORTS MAY 2019

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1. Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club and Playing Fields

There have been changes to the cricketing side of the club and we started the season with a new first team captain in Paul Smith. Paul galvanised the team following the relegation from Division 1 the previous season and with Tom Meek putting in a sterling effort with the difficult job of team selection each week, the team achieved success with good results at the beginning of the season although we trailed off towards the middle part of the season eventually ending up mid table in Division 2. However team spirit remained good and we were able to field 11 players for each match, which is a good achievement in its own right, when many other cricket clubs are struggling with numbers and player commitment. One of our key successes last year was Ben Meek, now aged 20, who turned out to be one of the best players in the West Somerset league with outstanding performances with both bat and ball. Ben has decided to play in a higher league team this year (2019), which is understandable and we wish him ever more success in his cricketing career.

The mid-week team, superbly led by Tom Meek, blends younger players and more senior players in 20 over Wednesday evening matches, playing in a more relaxed environment. This has had mixed results in terms of wins, but nevertheless, the matches are played in a great spirit and gives all players of varying standards the chance to enjoy the game and improve their cricket.

Off the field, there have been some key personnel changes, the most notable being the departure of Simon Cattell from key organisational roles. Simon has been hugely influential over the last 10 to 15 years in making big changes to the club and his legacy will be remembered for many years. A presentation to Simon at the AGM has recently taken place. Pat Tomlinson has also stepped down as Treasurer and we welcome Andrew Venner in this role for the future.

One person we will miss more than anyone is Tony Hannaford who has also said he wishes to no longer be responsible for ground maintenance. Tony has worked tirelessly and selflessly for years on cutting the grass and maintaining the wicket; work that is often not seen and not appreciated by players turning up on Saturday and always having a great wicket to play on. Big thanks and a happy retirement to Tony.

One of the clubs longstanding players, characters and last year's President, Francis Darlow has stood down from this position due to poor health and is currently very unwell. We wish Francis our very best wishes and welcome him to any matches he feels able to attend.

So far this year, the club has been very busy with ground preparation and the ground at the moment is looking fabulous, thanks in no small measure to Tom Meek, who has taken over as our main groundsman. The new committee has been very busy and a fixture list card was produced before the first match of the season, and we are all working superbly well to make this club as well run and organised as it can be. We recently had a meeting to look at setting up a formal Social Club at the Pavilion and to encourage other uses of the playing field and the use of the building. This new club is in its infancy but some superb suggestions are being discussed, and I look forward to letting the Parish Council further details in the near future.

In short, the club is looking in fine heart at the moment, with a number of committed and loyal members striving to make this a cricket club, the village can be proud of, and also looking to reach out to the community and putting on a number of events and activities that will benefit everyone in the village.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Greenway, Chairman Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club and Playing Fields.

2. Lydeard St Lawrence Church Report to Annual Parish Council Meeting

2018 has been a busy year for some of us as we plan and develop the proposals to make changes in the church. There was a good response from people during the consultation period and the comments made via the questionnaire have been duly noted and incorporated into the brief given to our architect. Progress is inevitably slow, in part because of the need to consult various authorities and interested parties and also, of course, make application for grants to fund what we want to do.

Attendance at services has remained about the same – the faithful few continue to support us. We have been pleased to welcome extra people for special occasions – notably the Remembrance Sunday service when some 70 folk of all ages gathered together to observe the centenary of the end of the First World War. A small exhibition was arranged that was on display for a week or so around November 11th showing details of the men who gave their lives from this village.

We have also welcomed our village school for their termly Good Work Assemblies and at Christmas and Easter. We are also pleased to be able to take the Christian story into school when we ‘Open the Book’ and act out a Bible story. A one-off occasion was the Carol Service organised by the Women’s Institute.

Messy Church happens near to major events during the Church’s year – Easter, Harvest, etc. and it is good to see children and their parents from the village coming together.

All churches have to be inspected every five years and our Quinquennial Inspection was made by our architect in April. There is some urgent work to be done but not at great expense and, overall, the building is in good repair. Which leads on to the ‘great event’ when our cockerel was blown down and the shaft penetrated the roof and protruded into the roof of the nave. It was unfortunate that this happened during the school’s Christingle service but at least no-one was injured, although a few were shocked but the service continued. The cockerel was damaged and is awaiting attention. Clearly the cockerel is a much-loved feature in the village judging by the response from people when it was suggested that it might not be restored to its lofty perch.

We know that the church building is much loved and valued and we are grateful to those who join us for our twice-yearly working parties in March and September when we do essential maintenance. Equally there is a faithful team of people who clean, dust and polish the inside. This too is much appreciated and an indication of what the building means to so many.

St. Lawrence church is here for everyone – sadly we only meet on the first and third Sunday of each month although there are extra services at Easter and Christmas and other occasions – all are welcome!

3. Lydeard St Lawrence Primary School PTA Report

Fundraising Success

At the beginning of the year, the PTA secured match funding for the sports equipment project. Generous donations from local businesses and donors raised £2500, which unlocked the grant for a further £2500 from the Hinkley Point Community Scheme. Thank you to Parish Councillor, Don Hobson, for agreeing to act as a

referee on our funding application for the HPC grant and to the Somerset Community Council for awarding us the HPC grant.

The £5000 will be spent on new sporting equipment at the school to support active play at after school clubs and during lessons. We will be purchasing two outdoor table tennis tables, new netball posts, tennis nets and equipment, handball goals and Try Golf equipment. There should also be enough to purchase new football goals, shin pads and rugby/football balls. We have also budgeted for a new metal shed for the storage of the new equipment. We are just waiting for the new fencing to go up at the school prior to installing the larger equipment and storage shed.

Acting Headteacher, Leah Challis, has secured a £500 grant from the Hinkley Point Trust to purchase scientific Lego equipment, which will be used as a learning resource in school and after school clubs.

The school have secured a £500 grant from the Glaxo Smith Klein Foundation. This will be spent on science resources at the school, as science is an area where resources are lacking.

The school has also secured funding from SCC to replace the external fencing around the school perimeter, so that it can better meet safeguarding requirements.



Changes to staffing structure

The school has been through several changes in staffing structure in the past 6 months with the Headship role and teacher posts for years 3, 4, 5 and 6. The School Governors and Acting Head have worked hard to keep the school and learning environment stable throughout the changes.

Mrs Leah Challis was selected for the role of Head Teacher. Leah has taught at the school for 5 years and knows the school and the children better than anybody, so the parents are all thrilled she has got the position.

Minehead Rotary Club Swimathon.

Around 30 children recently took part in a sponsored swimathon at Butlins organised by the Rotary Club. The children did an amazing job and although I'm unsure of the final count, I believe they did well over 100 lengths between them. At least half of the money raised by the children participating will come back to the school, with the other half supporting the very worthy Rotary club. We love participating in this fundraiser, and it's great to support the Rotary Club as they support so many great local causes in turn (including our school library project a few years ago ☺)

Bikeability

The children have been participating in Bikeability sessions in the village this week. External Bikeability assessors have come in to teach the children about cycling proficiency.

Race for Life

The children participated in a Race for Life event at the school and raised £146.95.

Smart Boards

The interactive smart boards have been exceptionally well received by the classes and have made a huge difference to the learning environment. The children are very proud and feel lucky to have the boards.

Speaking from personal experience, they have been of huge benefit to me in the after-school filmmaking clubs that I run at the school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They enable me to work with the children in ways that would not have been possible for me before. For example, on a recent animation session, we were able to mirror each group's iPad to the smart board at the end of the session so that the class could instantly view each other's films without any lengthy uploading and downloading processes.

We've also been able to link videos to Powerpoint presentations, so that in one touch the boards have shown us a clip directly relevant to our filmmaking subject – without any lengthy search process and opening and closing new browser tabs. It has streamlined so many things in presenting information. I know the staff have also had a very positive experience with the boards.

4. LYDEARD ST LAWRENCE WI ANNUAL REPORT

We have enjoyed a busy year with new members joining and an interesting programme of speakers and events.

We have been entertained and moved by speakers who have given an insight into a variety of subjects including the prison service, the work of the artist Tissot, the colourful history of Issac Singer, the founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company and an inspirational Channel swimmer.

This year we hosted the West Quantock Group of WI's Carol Service at Lydeard St Lawrence Church followed by refreshments in the festively decorated Village Hall.

As always evenings are finished with tea, a lively discussion and a great deal of humour.

We are looking forward to this year with enthusiasm and have speakers arranged on a wide range of subjects both topical and historic. If any potential new members would like to attend a meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrea Lindley

President, Lydeard St Lawrence WI, r.a.lindley66@gmail.com

5. Annual Report 2018 from Lydeard St. Lawrence Village Hall

The Hall continues to be used well by the community. Regular local users include the Parish Council, Table Tennis Club, Over-60s Lunch Club and the W. I., as well as the twice-weekly use by the Post Office and Coffee Shop.

The School, the P.T.F.A. and the P.C.C. hold their indoor events here and the Pilates classes keep people fit on Monday mornings in term time.

We have also been pleased to host the very successful village horticultural show organised by Don & Liz and the team. We are grateful as ever for the Parish Council grant, which helps in maintaining the buildings and grounds.

All this, together with the income from garage rental, means that the Hall remains on a sound financial footing.

Our biggest running costs in 2018 were, as usual, insurance at £1,092, a gardener at £675 and electricity at £487. The gardener is now employed on an organised basis to keep the grounds maintained and ensure the fabric of the Hall, garages & walls do not succumb to Mother nature. He also keeps the gardens tidy and the weeds down.

As with other organisations, we are always happy to receive suggestions or, even better, to welcome visitors and new members to our Management Committee meetings.

Don Hobson,

Chair, Village Hall Committee

May 2019