

Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland Annual Village Reports May 2022

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Lydeard St. Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council Chairman's Report 2021-2022

Fortunately, the Covid-19 pandemic ceased to be a major problem, and life started to get back to normal after the lifting of nearly all of the previous restrictions in July. In June the Parish Council resumed meeting face-to-face rather than *via* Zoom, which obviously was very much more satisfactory.

One Parish Councillor resigned owing to change of circumstances, but sadly no-one volunteered to replace him, and once again this year there were not enough candidates to make up the full Parish Council of nine members. Fortunately, two Councillors who had stood down generously agreed to be co-opted back on to the Council, but we are still one Councillor short. Some new blood is urgently needed.

Planning

There were rather fewer planning applications for the Planning Committee to consider this year, and all were fairly straightforward. The Council had no objections to any of the applications but did comment on a couple of them.

Highways

Once again there were problems with the state of the roads in the Westleigh area, with further damage being done to the verges and banks by large vehicles. I raised this matter with the County Council (SCC), but despite being assured that one of their highway engineers would come and inspect the area nothing has yet happened; I have asked for an update.

Nethercott Lane remains a problem, and once again I have been assured that SCC are addressing the problems – particularly the flooding in the dip just beyond the village.

I have also reported problems with flooding and blocked gullies on Binford's Lane.

All these matters take time to resolve, but we will continue to press SCC for some action on all of them. On the positive side, progress has been made with repairing potholes and SCC have initiated a new system for members of the public to report potholes and other problems on the roads.

Infrastructure

Another new salt bin has been bought and put in place at Common Down. We now have twelve such bins at various locations, although we have not recently had a winter severe enough to put them to use.

Eight new trees, provided free of charge by Somerset West and Taunton Council, were planted along the B3224 between Stoney Cross and Handy Cross.

The play equipment at the playing field is in need of replacement. This will be looked into by the new Parish Council.

Broadband

The Airband initiative has made some significant progress, and fibre-optic cables have been put in place in many areas, using the existing telephone and power poles. We will keep people informed as this project progresses.

Financial

For the first time for many years, we have had to increase the Precept, but only by a small amount (5%) in order to keep up with inflation and rising costs. We maintain a healthy reserve of funds in both the Community Benefit Fund and Community Infrastructure Levy, and funds are still ring-fenced for footpath repairs, clock maintenance and play equipment upkeep.

During the last year we have given financial support to repaint the Tolland Book Exchange kiosk, to help fund the tree surgery work in Tolland churchyard and to support the Village Hall Post Office outreach service.

Once again, I thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the last twelve months, and our Parish Clerk Lorna Thorne for all the invaluable work she does to keep the Parish Council running smoothly.

Jonathan Marshall
Chairman

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Lydeard St. Lawrence Village Hall Annual Report for 2021

2021 started with the country being locked down for three months and the Hall remained closed to all users.

On Monday 19th April the Post office returned to the Hall under strict Covid conditions to once again provide its service.

The Coffee Shop didn't start again until Monday 2nd August and then became Mondays only until 6th September when the Coffee Shop started happening on Thursdays as well.

I would like to express my thanks to Phil Barker, for managing the Coffee Shop and ensuring a good supply of tea, coffee and cake, which is provided by village residents. This facility has been sorely missed and its return is enjoyed by all.

During this time, Jane Kemp retired from service and was replaced by Teresa Potter who seamlessly slipped into the role. Not an easy act to follow as Jane had been with us for over ten years and was considered to be part of the Village.

On the subject of the Post Office, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their financial support for 2021.

In June the Parish Council returned to face-to-face meetings.

In September a taster session was held to gauge interest in starting up the Short Mat Bowls club. This proved successful, and they now meet monthly. Thanks to Anna Broad for running this.

The W.I. resumed their monthly meetings in September.

The Table Tennis Club started running their weekly sessions again on the 7th October and this has proved to be very popular with a strong junior section. Thanks go to Paul Yeomans for making this happen.

The pilates session run by Laura Sinclair resumed Thursday 28th October but unfortunately finish mid-December for personal reasons.

Other events that took place in the Hall during 2021, included a TV crew with Alan Titchmarsh filming a gardening program in April, the Hall being used as a Polling Station in May, and in September was used to run a First Aid course for a local business. Various other events made use of the equipment which we were able to hire out, a useful source of income.

In September we hosted an Open Weekend to raise the profile of the Hall and to seek comments and suggestion as to the activities the residents would like to happen. Thanks to Michaela Greener, Kate Campbell and Anna Broad for making the event so successful.

From this we ran a Quiz Night, our first social evening for nearly two years, and it was well received and supported by the Village. Thanks to Liz McConnell for running the evening and to Claire Marshall for her assistance in the background and during the evening.

Jacky Madel our Treasurer completed the accounts for 2021 before handing over the role to Andy Glendinning our new Treasurer who took this on from 1st January 2022.

Also, thanks must go to Jo Stewart for her role as Secretary, who, after over two years in the position has decide that she would like to hand over to our new Secretary Claire Marshall.

Throughout the year the gardener and cleaner were retained to keep the grounds tidy and building clean.

I would like to thank the committee for their time and contribution for the last year in keeping this Village asset running and finally thank you to Liz McConnell for taking on the role of Booking Secretary.

It is hoped that 2022 will see the regular activities continue and further opportunities for social gatherings to be planned.

Don Hobson, Chairman, Village Hall Committee. April 2022

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Lydeard St. Lawrence Cricket Club

"A much more "normal" year led to the resumption of the West Somerset Cricket league in 2021.

Our first team had clearly missed playing as they settled quickly into winning ways. We also ran our midweek fixtures for some of the younger members and others to enjoy the game. With our new signings well and truly set within the team now alongside some of the more "elder" statesmen in the squad, we were guided to a fantastic promotion to Division 2 for this coming season. Our new kit created a professional looking outfit who matched this with some excellent cricket and victories over most teams who we faced.

With the new season upon us we are as excited as ever to get going. Club members have been netting at the County Ground in Taunton since February and are determined to get the club back to the top of the West Somerset Cricket League structure with a rampant display in Division 2 in the coming season.

Our relationship with The New Inn has been rekindled and we enjoyed some fabulous post-match BBQs and socials after most home games in which all young and old are welcome.

If interested in playing or just coming up for a bit of a get together feel free to pop up or get in contact with Tom Smith the clubs secretary on 07468 566062, anyone wishing to hire the facilities can also contact Tom who will be happy to help with any enquiries.

We would of course welcome you to come and enjoy a cup of tea (or a beer after the game!) at home fixtures throughout the season and you would be warmly welcomed to our Vice President's and sponsors day which

you will be invited to celebrate the club. Our ground is nestled in the Quantock Hills area of outstanding natural beauty, on the outskirts of the village. Postcode for the ground is TA4 3RY and everyone is welcome to come and enjoy the facilities."

Thanks.

Tom Smith Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club Secretary

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Lydeard St. Lawrence Support Network WhatsApp Group

One thing to report to the Village Meeting is that the Lydeard St Lawrence Coronavirus Support Network WhatsApp group has decided to evolve into a more general village support network, so we can use the group to share information on village and local matters beyond Covid, while continuing to use it as a means to request help and respond to such requests, including importantly from the Village Agents, and also if as and when we are affected by further waves of illness.

We would like to retain our affiliation to the Parish Council and will function alongside the village email as a kind of virtual village noticeboard, especially useful if you need a rapid response. I need to come up with a suitable name, but for now we can just call it the village WhatsApp group.

We still have 40 members from L St L, Westowe, Nethercott and surrounding areas and others who would like to join are welcome to contact me on 07974 140632.

Best wishes, Kate Campbell.

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Lydeard St. Lawrence Parochial Church Council (PCC) Report 2021 - 2022

This year our church activities have again been curtailed as the Covid virus continues, but services were restarted with social distancing and masks, and have gradually returned to normal with an Easter celebration communion service enjoyed by a good congregation with organ playing, thanks to Helen Hall, and singing.

We are in the Benefice of Bishops Lydeard, and our new Rector, Mark Hurley, who arrived in 2020, was finally instituted in February 2022 followed by a 'bring & Share' supper at Bishops Lydeard.

Our associate Priest, Rev. Maureen Young, retired last September and our church was full, giving a much-loved priest and friend a very good send-off. Her husband David was churchwarden and is also much missed.

Pat Coles is now the only churchwarden, and I have taken over as PCC secretary. We have not been able to find a new Treasurer in the village, so Gary Rumbold (Combe Florey Treasurer) has kindly taken on the job temporarily. So, if anyone has the necessary skills and time, we would love to hear from you!

Unfortunately, our regular attendance is small, and we would love more support from the village. We have a beautiful and ancient church and are working hard to keep it going. We need ideas for using the church space,

which we are planning to change and update – these plans are in the church for all to see, and so please come and visit. The church is open in daylight hours and we need input from the village for ideas and support.

You will have noticed that bell ringing has re-commenced thanks to Janet Bond and her team. There are new ringers being coached by Paul Yeomans and they would welcome anyone else who would like to have a go.

We have willing helpers for our flowers, church cleaning teams, and also two open mornings for church and churchyard clear-ups. We can always do with more! Please contact me if you would like to be included.

The upkeep of the church needs funds – it has been a difficult two years as fund-raising events have not been able to take place, apart from Croquet & Cream Tea last August, which was a great social afternoon and raised over £300. This year we have Open Gardens on 28/29th May 2pm-6pm with teas at Reeds Court. So do come and enjoy 9 open gardens in whose owners are working hard ready for the event.

Helen Foster, Manor House, Tel 667207

PCC Secretary

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The Church of St. John The Baptist, Tolland

Tolland has had a lively year despite the continuation of Covid restrictions. Services in the churchyard were well attended and appreciated as was the ‘always-open’ church.

At the end of April, we were finally able to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the gates into the churchyard kindly supported by the Parish Council. After the service and blessing, Cllr Jonathan Marshall helped cut a magnificent cake iced with an edible photo of the gates.



The Parish Council also helped with the cost of specialist tree work to raise the crowns of the larger trees overhanging the south and west side of the churchyard. The maintenance work was recommended by the architect in the Quinquennial Report.

Once again, the council’s open spaces grant was used to pay for a day of the EuCAN Milverton Conservation Volunteers’ time. We could never manage the annual cutting and raking up of the long grass in churchyard without their help.

This year we are trialing some events, such as concerts and talks, in the church and our neighbours from adjoining parishes are most welcome. These are publicised in the Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland e-newsletter.

Maureen Canney and Linda Lloyd

Churchwardens, St John the Baptist Tolland, 13th May 2022

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Lydeard St. Lawrence WI
Est. 1921
Annual Report 2022

It has been another extraordinary year and despite the apparent easing of restrictions and vaccinations, 2022 continued to present some difficulties with new Coronavirus variants, restrictions, self-isolations and cancellations. However, the members of Lydeard St Lawrence WI rose to each new challenge with their usual positivity, sense of humour and good grace.

Notwithstanding, some of the restrictions and safety measures which were in place we have still managed a full programme of events including quizzes, speakers on varied subjects such as mindfulness and organic flower arrangements and held our garden, Christmas and birthday parties.

Our summer outing was held at the stunning Newt near Castle Cary, where we were treated to a guided tour by the head gardener followed by a delicious lunch in their restaurant. We also held various craft events including making poppies using various methods (for the more or less skilled crafter) to decorate the cross at Tolland Church for their Remembrance Day service.

Lydeard St Lawrence WI support various charities in the County via the County Community Liaison Team. Activities we have undertaken include collecting household items and baking birthday cakes for the YMCA, making oncology cushions and aids for dementia sufferers.

We continue to co-ordinate the Somerset County Federation Christmas Shoebox appeal where over 400 shoeboxes are collected from WI members throughout the County. Each shoebox is sorted and distributed to those in need. This is a very important project for our WI and one which makes a real difference to those in need.

We are known for being a particularly friendly group and this year will see another programme of interesting events. If you would like to come along to see if the WI is for you, you would be very welcome to join us at one of our meetings. For more details, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

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Lydeard St. Lawrence Lydeard Lifts
Report May 2022

The Lydeard Lift service was started in the village nearly 20 years ago by Heather Hannaford. It was initially partly funded by the council but as time moved on, the funding stopped and the number of people wanting lifts dwindled too.

The pandemic of 2020 caused an immediate cessation of the service in the village and once restrictions were finally lifted, we took the decision to cease this service altogether. By this stage we had very few people wanting lifts and, crucially, even fewer people willing to act as drivers.

A list of alternative driving and lift agencies has been passed to our few regular customers.

Lydeard Lifts is no more.

Liz McConnell, Coordinator

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