

Lydeard St. Lawrence

Annual Village Reports – April 2023

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Lydeard St. Lawrence and Tolland Parish Council

Chairman's Report 2022-2023

The Parish Council started the year with one vacancy; however Mr Guy Sturgess of Westowe expressed an interest in joining the council and was co-opted at our September meeting. It is pleasing to have all seats filled – many other Parish Councils still lack a full complement of members.

In June, both Lydeard St Lawrence and Tolland held celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Both were really successful and very much enjoyed by everyone who attended.

In October we were shocked and saddened to hear of the tragic accident which resulted in the death of Anthony Trollope-Bellew, our representative on the County Council. Cllr Trollope-Bellew regularly attended our meetings and his reports to us were always very much appreciated. I sent a letter of condolence to the family on behalf of the Parish Council.

On 1st April the new unitary council for Somerset came into being and the old District Councils were abolished. We shall have to wait and see what, if any, effect this will have on our communities.

Planning

As ever there were several planning applications for the Planning Committee to consider this year. Most were uncomplicated, but some Councillors expressed concern regarding the way in which the development at Handy Cross had been processed by both the former Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset West and Taunton Council.

Highways

The flooding on Nethercott Lane was finally addressed by the County Council and drainage and road levelling work carried out. However, the rest of the road remains in a poor state.

Erosion of the banks of the smaller lanes by large vehicles remains a problem, and potholes regularly occur, although these are usually repaired fairly quickly if they are reported using the online reporting system put in place last year by SCC.

Infrastructure

The new trees planted along the B3224 between Stoney Cross and Handy Cross died during the hot and dry weather last summer; it is not planned to replace them.

The play equipment at the playing field was inspected and a couple of items removed and scrapped. Some new parts have been purchased to renovate the swings, and these will be fitted when the opportunity arises.

There were two rather annoying incidents over the last year – the litter bin outside the Village Hall went missing and has not been replaced, and the post box at Scarr was destroyed by a lorry. Royal Mail were most unhelpful about replacing the post box, so a resident has asked our MP Rebecca Pow if she can help resolve the situation.

Broadband

Work on new broadband connections has taken place throughout the area on an occasional basis, although there has been no indication as to when it may become usable.

Financial

The Council's finances remain in a healthy state, with a good 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.

Once again I thank my fellow Councillors for their support over the last twelve months, and our Parish Clerk Lorna Thorne for her much-appreciated work on our behalf.

Jonathan Marshall
Chairman

Annual Report 2022 from Lydeard St. Lawrence Village Hall

2022 started with Covid restrictions being removed and return to normal usage of the Village Hall.

During this time, our Post Mistress Teresa Potter continued to provide the Post Office service opening on 95 occasions. I would like to thank the Parish Council again for their continued financial support for 2022.

The Coffee Shop continued to be well supported both Mondays and Thursdays. 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.

The Parish Council returned to meeting every six weeks as normal.

The Short Mat Bowls club is up and running, thanks to Anna Broad, and the W.I. continues with their monthly meetings.

The Table Tennis Club run by Paul Yeomans continues to go from strength to strength, with a thriving junior section.

Other events that took place in the Hall during 2022 included it being used as a Polling Station, a W.I. Workshop, two PTFA quiz nights a Cricket Club race night, Church harvest supper, a talk on a Ugandan women's refuge, and it was also used by the school for interviews.

Tables and chairs have been loaned out to for a family party and the croquet and cream tea at the Manor House.

The Car Park has been used on several occasions by various rambling groups, locals wishing to leave their cars off road for whatever reason and the school.

The Hall has also been used by the Committee to run social events which included a table-top sale, curry night, games night and the horticultural show.

I would like to thank Paul Yeomans who has been invaluable to the Committee, providing advice and guidance, and has carried out numerous maintenance tasks to ensure the Hall is safe and useable for everybody.

My thanks go to Andy Glendinning our Treasurer, who has kept the Committee up to date with all the financial dealings throughout the year and has completed the accounts for 2022, which have been examined and signed off.

Also, thanks must go to Clare Marshall for her first year in the role as Secretary responsible for recording minutes and providing us with all the documentation needed for the smooth running of the committee. She also ensures supplies are maintained and makes any necessary equipment purchases as required.

Liz McConnell must be thanked for doing an excellent job as Booking Secretary liaising with the Treasurer to ensure hire payments are made correctly.

Michaela Greener, our Social Secretary and her team, deserve a big thank you for bringing the village together at several different events throughout the year.

On a sad note, Jo Stewart has decided to step down as a committee member. Over the years her time as Secretary and committee member has been much appreciated. Thank you and good luck with your move to pastures new.

Throughout the year the gardener and cleaner have kept the grounds tidy and the building clean.

During 2022 the Committee has worked very well together as a team, which I'm sure will continue in 2023 providing further opportunities for social gatherings and activities.

Don Hobson

Chairman, Village Hall Committee

Lydeard St Lawrence Cricket Club Report on 2022 Season

The 2022 season followed a 2021 season with Lydeard St Lawrence gaining yet another promotion to the top league, once again finishing 2nd behind Kilve Cricket Club who are another progressive side. Having gained some younger players from surrounding clubs and blending youth with experience we have established a regular starting 11 which on its days can compete with any side in the West Somerset structure.

2023 has started financially quite difficult, with the costs of living always rising of late we found electricity bills, cost of vital equipment maintenance and the off-season square works adding up and up. This in mind we are aware of the need to raise funds at every opportunity. We will be doing this by our annual race night, sponsorship from local businesses, raffles and unfortunately a rise in our memberships to cover the costs of a small village club. However, we do see a light and appear to have covered all our costs for the season.

Moving into 2023 cricket season we are hoping to build on the addition of players by hopefully welcoming some new additions. We will be competing in Division 1 this year with a firm belief we can fully compete and hopefully go one further than second by winning a league, we will be competing in the cups as well with the ambition to win them.

Our midweek friendly side continues to thrive with a real mix of older players and youth of all abilities we see regularly father and son combinations playing together on a Wednesday night. We use the midweek fixtures to breed new life into the club allowing the younger members to flourish and gain valuable experience. This has proved vital to us over the last few seasons with the Luxton brothers being the latest off the young Lydeard conveyor belt, becoming firm members of our 1st team.

Sundays we have the football training on at the club when the weather permits also.

We as always welcome members of the village and surrounding villages for tea and refreshments. You'll always be welcomed with a smile and a conversation.

Anyone looking to play or get involved please get in contact with Tom Meek or just pop your head in on any game day.

Tom Smith

LSLCC Secretary

Lydeard St Lawrence WI Est 1921 Annual Report 2023

Looking back over the past year, Lydeard St Lawrence WI has again had a very full programme of events and with the hard work, enthusiasm and positivity of our members have also had some remarkable achievements.

We have enjoyed entertaining, inspirational and educational speakers on a variety of subjects including Boo Botanicals, the Born Free Foundation and Mission Penguin. We have had the opportunity to learn new skills, participate in quizzes and enjoy our annual birthday meal, Christmas party and garden meeting. A particularly popular evening this year was spent learning the history of and how to make cocktails. We were also pleased to win first prize in the Taunton Flower Show's WI category with our Summer Sports entry.

Our summer meeting is always an outing which this year, after lunch at The Lost Kitchen in Tiverton, was on the Tiverton Canal. We were fortunate to have a beautiful summer's day for a relaxing journey along the canal. A great social occasion where family and friends are encouraged to attend.

Lydeard St Lawrence WI support various charities in the County via the County Community Liaison Team. Members make and donate a variety of items throughout the year such as oncology cushions and bags, knitted and quilted blankets, knitted animals to assist in story telling and twiddle-muffs to assist dementia sufferers. Over the year from oddments of wool and scraps of fabric a great many items have been made and donated.

We continued to co-ordinate the Somerset County Federation Christmas Shoebox appeal where over 600 shoeboxes were again collected from WI members throughout the County, sorted and distributed to YMCA's, women's refuge and the elderly and in need via the Village Agent. In addition, the WI's response to a call for help with Ukranian refugees was overwhelming in its generosity. Starting with the collection of underwear for the many women and children who left their homes with very few possessions, the response was so tremendous the WI were able to provide significant amounts of other items including toiletries, clothing and Christmas bags for the many refugees in our area.

We are known for being a particularly friendly group and this year we are looking forward to another full programme. If you would like to come along and meet us, you would be very welcome to join one of our meetings without any obligation. For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Andrea Lindley

President, Lydeard St Lawrence WI