

GO AHEAD FOR INDOOR FARM IN LYDNEY

“THE world’s largest indoor farm” can now officially start growing after councillors green lit plans to convert the site of a former metal foundry in Lydney.

Food producer the Jones Food Company (JFC) has secured permission from Forest of Dean District Council to change the use of the former JD Norman metal foundry site on Tutnalls Street, in order to create a new state-of-the-art hydroponic indoor farm.

Works to build the innovative new facility, which will use robots and cover the equivalent of 70 tennis courts on 17 levels, began last year after the company secured permission to demolish a tower at the site next to the A48 Bypass.



© image and story @ theforester.co.uk

JFC said the multi-million pound **‘Garden of England’** development will help them achieve their aim of supplying 70 per cent of the UK’s fresh produce to supermarkets within the next ten years, and that the facility will “comfortably” be the biggest of its kind in the world.

The farm, which has been backed by online supermarket Ocado, is due to become operational this year. The company will look to alter the roof of the building and install

solar panels, as well as external heating, ventilation, an air conditioning system, water tanks, and a CO2 ingestion system.

They will also make changes to the exterior of the building and increase the roof height by three metres in order to maximise growing space internally.

Councillor Bevan said he was “proud that Lydney has been chosen for this type of development”. He added that he was sure that operations at the site would be “much quieter” than the foundry and praised the company’s focus on sustainability.

PENNY FARTHING SPOTTED ...

Spotted travelling along the Sharpness Canal!! A sight you don’t see very often nowadays!

The vintage Penny Farthing was ridden by a gentleman in modern clothing including a helmet. Of course, in yesteryears the rider would have been kitted out in a tweed jacket and plus fours!

The Penny Farthing enjoyed great popularity in the 1880s, at least by those that could afford them. Although the trend was short-lived, the Penny Farthing became a symbol of the late Victorian era.

Who knows, could it be up for a resurgence?



© image Carl Russell/Gloucester Glass and story @ gloucestershirenewscentre.co.uk

Inspirational Quote

“ Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don’t mind, it doesn’t matter. ”

Mark Twain

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED DUCKS HATCH AT WWT SLIMBRIDGE WETLAND CENTRE

Two Baer's pochard ducklings hatched this June:

Slimbridge Wetland Centre in Gloucestershire has announced two **Baer's pochard ducklings** hatched at the centre in June. This is the first time that Slimbridge has successfully bred this critically endangered species in their new Mission Possible exhibit, which opened in May 2021.

The species were once a common sight across Eastern Asia, but it now is sadly at risk becoming the first widespread continental duck to become extinct. Baer's pochard became listed as Critically Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2012, with once a population of around 20,000 to now fewer than 1000 individuals remaining in the wild.

Deputy Living Collections Manager Phoebe Vaughan said: *"The Baer's pochard is the most recent in a long list of 'little brown ducks' to need our help and understanding in recent decades. The Aviculture team is thrilled to be able to do our bit for raising the awareness of both the Baer's pochard, and also incidentally the Madagascar pochard, to which this little family are representing for us so beautifully. "When you make habitat, they will come, they will breed, and they will thrive! This is such a valuable message to our visitors and future generations."*

WWT's Conservation Breeding Unit used Baer's pochard, alongside Ferruginous duck, to trial the ground-breaking equipment eventually used for the Madagascar pochard soft release at Lake Sofia. Not only were the Baer's physically perfect for assessing the suitability of the equipment, but WWT were able to raise their species profile at the same time.



6-0 WIN FOR DURSLEY TOWN LADIES FOOTBALL CLUB

Dursley Town vs Abbeymead - Sunday 9th October

The game started with a goal from youngster Amalie Gray within 13 seconds smashing in from the edge of the box into the top right hand corner. The second goal also came courtesy of Gray-off her knee. Persistence in the box from Morgan Tayler following a Dursley corner resulted in Tayler's first goal of the season. (3-0 at half time.) Shortly after, Tayler went on a run down the left beating numerous players before scoring from wide left into the top corner.

A scramble in the box led to a well struck goal from Phoebe Booth from 12 yards. The final goal completed Grays hat trick on her first competitive start after she followed in a shot from Captain Michelle Watson.

In the dying minutes, goalkeeper Steph Hill had to make her only save of the game as she flew out of the box to meet the oncoming Abbeymead striker and put the ball out of play. Player of the match was awarded to **Amalie Gray**.



LATEST ACTIVITIES & EVENTS AT SYDENHAM HOUSE

A September to Remember!

September got off to a flying start at Sydenham with a 'passage to India' for the Hindu festival of **Ganesh Chaturthi**. We tasted Indian food, drank Chai, tried on Saris and decorated our handprints to make a Peacock collage involving everyone who lives and works in our Home.

Then we were off to the USA to celebrate Buddy Holly's birthday with a **Burger-bar lunch**, topped off with Knickerboker Glories, followed by a medley of Broadway Shows courtesy of travelling theatre **Tickled Pink** who brought tap-dancing and tinsel-town into our own lounge.

Sadly, at the very zenith of our enjoyment, the death of Her Majesty **Queen Elizabeth** was announced. Sydenham House joined the nation in mourning the Queen and welcoming our new King, sharing the news as it happened and hearing first-hand reports from Carers who set off for London at the end of their evening shifts to get front row places on

Horseguard's Parade at the Queen's funeral.

By the end of the month we'd seen a change of Prime Minister, a change of Monarch and a change of Season. For the Jewish community it is a New Year as they mark **Rosh Hashana**, and as we acknowledged the festival by eating apples dipped in honey, it felt like a new era has dawned for us, too. Many of us recalled a previous King reciting "The Gate of the Year" by Minnie Louise Haskins on the BBC Home Service.

World Alzheimers Day reminded us to focus on what we CAN do rather than those things we can't do or find difficult. Sydenham residents have a wealth of skills, from knitting to fixing computers, baking and catering to shorthand and typing, and of course they have Wisdom which comes with long life and wide experience. Our "**Skills Tree**" is a useful resource for staff who have questions; very often one of the

residents will have the answers!

Rose, from the **Forest Schools' Project**, started working with our residents in collaboration with the children from Blakeney Primary School as they will be learning about nature in their environment this term. Rose will be with us **every Wednesday morning** from now until Christmas, and anyone is welcome to join in with her excellent varied activities in the Conservatory where warm drinks, biscuits and even toasted marshmallows are on offer.

We ended September on a hopeful note, looking forward to meeting new folk and lots of new things to learn in October. **Harvest Festival** is coming up; we'll be **preparing fruit** from the farm, making **preserves**, celebrating birthdays, **planting bulbs** and making jolly **vegetable lanterns** for our windows at the end of the month (*nothing scary about Halloween here.*)

About Activities

There's always plenty to do at Sydenham House

Our Activities encourage everyone to participate in meaningful, purposeful tasks. Our theme-based approach is designed to appeal to the interests of the Sydenham "family" - residents, staff and visitors - drawing on their knowledge and skills to educate and enhance their life-experience in our Home.

In addition, board games, quizzes, arts and crafts, needlework and knitting are always available, and we have a library of books, magazines and newspapers, YouTube and Internet facilities to bring the outside in.

Walks in the village and links with the local church and school ensure we are part of the community and outings farther afield can be arranged.

Lyn



Broadway Show



A fantastic performance by the Travelling Theatre, Tickled Pink!

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT HALLOWEEN

The holiday dates back more than 2,000 years:

Halloween is even older than Christianity itself. It all started as a pre-Christian Celtic festival called Samhain, which means “summer’s end.”

Trick-or-treating has existed since medieval times:

Taking candy from strangers on one night a year (and one night only!) isn’t a new tradition. Back then, it was known as “guising” in Scotland and Ireland. Young people dressed up in costumes and went door-to-door looking for food or money in exchange for songs, poems or other “tricks” they performed.

Some Halloween rituals used to involve finding a husband:

It’s TRUE!! During the 18th century, single ladies devised Halloween traditions that were supposed to help them find their romantic match. According to History.com, women used to throw apple peels over their shoulder, hoping to see their future husband’s initials in the pattern when they landed. When they bobbed for apples at parties, the winner would supposedly marry first!

Sugar rationing during World War II halted trick-or-treating:

Because of the shortage of sweet stuff, trick-or-treating wasn’t as big of a thing during WWII. After the rationing ended, it was all systems go on the candy-collecting front. Candy companies began launching advertising campaigns to cash in on the ritual and make sure kids were clamouring for their products to show up in their candy buckets and spare pillowcases.

The Irish also brought us jack-o’-lanterns:

As the story goes, an Irish man named Stingy Jack tricked the devil and therefore was not allowed into heaven or hell — so he spent his days roaming the Earth carrying a lantern; hence the name “Jack of the Lantern.” Tell that story to the kids when you pick up your seasonal squash and try not to get goosebumps when you carve up your own pumpkins this year.



They used to be carved out of turnips, potatoes and beets:

Jack-o’-lanterns did originate in Ireland, after all. Once Halloween became popular in America, people used pumpkins instead. This year, you might consider adding some creative produce to your Halloween tableau for a more natural look that also has historical origins. When the holiday’s over, they make a delicious dinner side too!

The fastest pumpkin carving only took 16.47 seconds:

Stephen Clarke of New York holds the Guinness Book of World Records distinction, having carved his speedy lantern in October 2013. In order to nab the title, the jack-o’-lantern had to contain a complete face, including eyes, nose, mouth and ears.



BIRDS TO SPOT THIS AUTUMN/WINTER:

If you’re a lover of British Birds, perhaps you’d like to keep an eye out for some of these coming our way soon!



WOOD WARBLER



TREE PIPIT



HAWFINCH



SPOTTED FLYCATCHER



GOSHAWK



LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER