

FINISHING TOUCHES AT LYDNEY HARBOUR

Finishing touches have been put to Lydney Harbour regeneration, announces district council ...

The regeneration of Lydney Harbour has largely been completed following the resurfacing of Harbour Road, Forest of Dean District Council.

The project has seen the transformation of the historic harbourfront; including the installation of a visitor hub, café and public artworks display.

Cabinet Member for Economy, Cllr Bernie O'Neill said: “The resurfacing of Harbour Road was one of the final steps in completing the regeneration of Lydney Harbour.

“One of the main aims of the project was to develop the harbour into a recreation and tourism destination, improving access was essential in achieving this.

“Resurfacing the road brings the three year project closer to completion, making it easier for everyone to come and experience the brilliant new features at the site.

I would like to thank everyone in the Forest of Dean District Council involved in delivering what has been a major regeneration project for us.”

A council spokesperson said “In 2019, a **£2.1 million** grant was secured from the Coastal Community Fund to regenerate Lydney Harbour. The aims of the project were to develop the area into a recreation and tourist destination by improving the harbour and access to it.

“Over the past three years extensive work has taken place to achieve these aims, culminating in the recent resurfacing of Harbour Road.

“The first element of the project was the construction of a café and the refurbishment of the old mortuary buildings into toilets and a visitor information hub.

“Local Lydney-based business, Hips Social, have been running the café as ‘Hips Harbourside Café’ since December last year. Providing visitors with refreshments while they visit the Harbour.

“To further highlight the industrial heritage of the harbour, artists

‘Dehman+Gould’ have designed three distinct pieces of artwork that have been installed in the area. Entitled ‘Forest to the Sea’, visitors are able to follow a public artwork trail which traces a similar path to the coal that made its way from the Forest of Dean, to the harbour and out into the world.

“In addition to this, **150 trees were planted** along the access corridor to improve biodiversity in the area, in keeping with the council’s commitment to the environment. There will also be a new lit-path constructed by the end of the year, completing the original pedestrian towpath. By improving access to the area, everyone can enjoy Destination Lydney Harbour and all the things it has to offer.”



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FALSE ALARM! Or False Arm!

Gloucestershire Police issued an urgent appeal across the county that was shared nationally.

The appeal was launched after a call reporting that a man had been seen being put into the boot of a car on the A48 in Blakeney. However, it would

appear that it was all an innocent misunderstanding. Thankfully we soon found out that the ‘man’ was in fact a realistic looking water rescue manikin by a company called Extreme Simulations, who train people to cope in emergency situation.

Looks real life to me!!



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Very realistic and life-like training manikin!

PARKEND HISTORIC PUB “THE FOUNTAIN” IS UP FOR SALE AS OWNERS RETIRE AFTER 33 YEARS

One of Gloucestershire’s well-known, historic country pubs is up for sale after the owners decided to retire following 33 years behind the bar. Alan and Michelle Powell are selling The Fountain Inn which is the oldest building in the Forest of Dean village of Parkend.

The Fountain Inn is well known by walkers and mountain bikers across the region and is used by holidaymakers staying at nearby Whitmead Forest Park. It is also popular with visitors who arrive on the Dean Forest Railway which has a station in the pretty village. will breed, and they will thrive! This is such a valuable message to our visitors and future generations.”

Potential buyers are being told that there is planning permission to convert part of the building currently used as accommodation into two separate houses while keeping the pub open. It is on the market for £750,000.

Customers from far and wide wished the family well when they made the shock announcement with a statement on social media from Alan and Michelle and their children Matthew, Courtney and Kai.

“After almost 33 years, we’ve decided to plan



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our retirement and have put the pub on the market,” they wrote. “Running the Fountain Inn has been a labour of love and a huge part of our lives which we will never forget, but we know it’s the right decision for us to take and one which we hope you will all understand.”

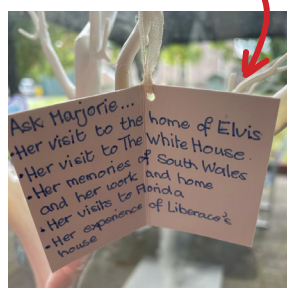
“It’s been an honour to own The Fountain Inn and to have played such a role in Parkend community life.” The announcement followed another one in October when the couple said they would not be hosting Christmas Day lunches for the first time because they wanted to spend the day with family.”

World Alzheimers Day at Sydenham House

All the residents joined in to commemorate Alzheimer’s and Dementia Day at Sydenham House. The idea is to raise more awareness and therefore much needed donations for the charity, The Alzheimer’s Society.

The staff and residents drew lovely forget me not flowers on the window and hung little memory notes from the tree.

In 2022, the campaign will have a special focus on post-diagnosis support. Following recent developments and potential breakthroughs, in both dementia treatment and support, the campaign will aim to highlight the importance of support for people living with dementia and families following a diagnosis.



LATEST ACTIVITIES & EVENTS AT SYDENHAM HOUSE

The Wait for Red October

With the “season of mists and mellow fruitfulness” at its peak we were expecting plenty of stunning Autumn colours outside our windows.

Instead, we had a lot of lovely sunshine here in Blakeney. Without the frosts the leaves took their time to turn, and we enjoyed getting out in the warm, pleasant afternoons. Mary has been kept busy with requests from residents wanting to “go for a walk” and we’ve been interested to watch the development of the new playground at The Butts, chatting to

various workmen on the way, making new friends & discovering old ones too.

We enjoyed bringing the outside in at the start of the month, laminating leaves, making displays with hedgerow foliage and looking skywards; buzzard behaviour, con-trails or chem-trails, supermoons and constellations are amongst the topics raised and discussed by our residents.

Lots of fruit and vegetables have been donated to Sydenham House this Autumn, all gratefully received. Apples have made delicious crumbles

and pies, and Quince are destined for Quincemeat and “Quince Pies” at Christmas. Walnuts have been hung up to dry and gone into cakes for the freezer, and we’re waiting for the Medlars to soften before we turn them into Fools.

None of us know what to expect of Medlars, so we’re on a learning curve with this weird, wonderful, ancient fruit.

Lyn



About Activities

There’s always plenty to do at Sydenham House

The Sydenham Souls are Great Makers!

Meg has been busy knitting a pretty blue sweater for her grandchild in Denmark, Phillipa is knitting soft toys and a waistcoat. It is lovely to find folk who share hobbies and skills, and to appreciate each other’s work.

We appreciate each other’s cooking too – we’ve made jammy buns, bread and biscuits in October. An old-fashioned set of balance scales and imperial weights enable everyone to

help with making and baking, and if in doubt, we just ask Betty – her skills with weights and measures and her taste for cakes have not deserted her!

We’ve all had the opportunity to try **Encaustic Art and Marbling** – two mediums in which it’s hard to fail! We’ve turned our efforts into Greetings and Christmas Cards which are for sale in the entrance hall, and 100% of the proceeds will be recycled into Activities at Sydenham House.

Everyone enjoyed a **Movie Night** when we watched The Sound of

Music with nibbles and drinks in hand. Many thanks to David for his assistance with the technology. More Movie Nights to come, so keep an eye on the Activities information board. Live music with **Mel and Mindsong** gave us all a chance to sing-along, and these regular gigs happen 3 times a month.

The month closed with Halloween. In Sydenham, we celebrated autumn with thoughts of Light and Dark and the onset of long nights and shorter days with warming mugs of Bovril, Horlicks and Ovaltine with spicy Dutch Apple Cake.

COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

- Remembrance Day Activities
- Guy Fokkes Night / Bonfire Night
- Christmas Preparations at Sydenham
- & more!!

Lydney Town AFC Youth Minute Silence



The teams at Lydney Town AFC Youth showed their respects in a minute’s silence for Remembrance Day prior to kick off.



New Role for King Charles on his 74th Birthday

The position was previously held by Prince Philip until his death in 2021.

The age of 74 might not be a milestone age for most, but for King Charles it holds the distinction of being his first birthday as monarch. And to mark the occasion Buckingham Palace has announced that he has taken on a **new role as the Ranger of Windsor Great Park.**

A photograph of Charles next to an ancient oak tree in the park was released by the Palace to accompany the announcement. In taking on the role he will follow in the footsteps of his father Prince Philip, who held the position from 1952 when the Queen came to the throne to his death in 2021. Before that, the post was held by King George VI.

“The Ranger of The Great Park offers oversight and guidance to the Deputy Ranger and his team in the day-to-day stewardship of one of the country’s oldest landed estates,” Buckingham Palace said in a statement. “The role at Windsor can trace its roots back to 1559 when Sir Henry Neville was appointed Ranger in the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I.”

The King is spending his birthday privately with no public engagements in his diary. The day is being marked publicly with gun salutes and flags being flown from government buildings. The Union Jack was flying from Buckingham Palace today, showing the King was not in residence, as crowds gathered to watch the Changing the Guard ceremony.

The 15,800-acre Windsor Estate is managed by The Crown Estate and encompasses Windsor Great Park and Home Park including the famous Long Walk to Windsor Castle. The Great Park is home to horticultural displays, woodland, wildflowers and deer. Members of the royal family frequently ride their horses in the park.

Paul Sedgwick, The Crown Estate’s Managing Director, Rural and Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park, said they were “honoured” that King Charles was “continuing a long tradition of the sovereign and members of the royal family holding this role.” “Windsor has a wonderful heritage with many precious natural habitats. His Majesty’s passion and commitment to the natural world will be invaluable as we seek to become a centre of excellence for environmental best practice, preserving and enhancing the Great Park for generations to come,” he said.



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QUIZ CORNER!

Just for fun!

here’s a little quiz - who would like to be Quiz Master?!

Guess the Year ...

- 1 The Berlin wall fell
- 2 The first man landed on the moon
- 3 The film Titanic was premiered
- 4 Guy Fawkes attempted to blow up parliament
- 5 The Victoria tube line was officially opened by Queen Elizabeth
- 6 Google was founded
- 7 Queen Victoria was crowned
- 8 The Channel Tunnel opened
- 9 Queen released Bohemian Rhapsody for the first time
- 10 Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights was first published

Inspirational Quote

“Whoever is happy will make others happy too.”

Anne Frank