

THE LYMINGE NEWSLETTER

For the communities of
LYMINGE, ETCHINGHILL, RHODES MINNIS and POSTLING

Produced by THE LYMINGE ASSOCIATION | www.lyminge.org.uk

From The Lyminge Association

FEBRUARY 2026



POSTLING GLASSBLOWING



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WHO'S THAT BEHIND THE GLASS? A LOCAL GLASSBLOWER, RIGHT HERE ON OUR DOORSTEP

Paul trained as a scientific glassblower and is now more creative as the sole proprietor of Postling Glassblowing. Come and join him for a unique experience. Why not try blowing glass yourself, to make your own piece?

Gift vouchers available. Contact us with your enquiries. **Commissions welcomed.**

Please contact us for further information: Call Martine 07722 589910 or Paul 07951 628173
or email postlingglassblowing@gmail.com

 @postlingglassblowing  Postling Glassblowing  Postling Glassblowing

Margaret Saunders' Meanderings

This year's meanderings will comprise monthly observations I have made over the past year, 2025.

February

We are two days into February 2025 and overnight frost glazes the morning, shimmering in the clear light of the early sun. It is six weeks since the solstice but it still feels wintry in the fresh cold air of day. Evenings are beginning to noticeably lengthen and a clear sky draws me out as the last light of the day fades into night. The new crescent moon, accompanied by Venus, shines brightly as I walk down Woodland Road to see if I can catch a reflection of these wonders in the village pond. I do. Standing in the almost darkness, an owl hoots in the distance and ducks murmur on the water. All else is silent and I savour the moment. Suddenly, there is a loud quacking and splashing as three ducks take off southwards and after a few seconds, another takes off towards the west. Minutes later and it would have been too dark for them to fly safely. Calm descends again as the ripples of the reflected moon and planet widen and fade, finally replaced by their perfect mirror image.

A few days later and the surfaces of both of the village ponds are covered with concentric circles from a steady rain. They gradually enlarge until the next raindrop takes over. There is something very pleasing and restful about circles: they have no beginning and no end, and are complete within themselves. Near to where I am standing, a hazel tree drips both catkins and raindrops. Looking around I notice that the drips from fine twigs form more delicate droplets whereas

thicker twigs produce larger ones. Surprisingly bright green moss covers a decaying log amongst leaf litter, bringing to life a dark and damp corner.



On the greyest of grey days, when the mist has absorbed all the light, the horizon at West Hythe drifts in and out of view as sky merges with sea. Smooth waves roll in from the east at a forty-five degree angle to the shore, their foam sweeping in swathes, curving across the almost flat low-tide beach leaving a rim of froth on the exposed sand, then gently retreating to allow for the passage of the next incoming wave. The grey-green sea heaves slowly up and down – its vast surface 'breathing' rhythmically. Along the beach, a juvenile seagull struggles with an equally juvenile dogfish, one of the many which are washed ashore when strong winds stir up the water.

Cuttlefish skeletons dot the beach, reminding me of my childhood when one used to be propped between the bars of the budgerigar cage! This unique internal

shell, the cuttlebone, controls their buoyancy. The ancient Greek and Roman word for cuttlefish is *sepia* as they emit a brown pigment when they are alarmed, hence our word *sepia* for a reddish-brown colour, usually associated with old photographs.

'February fill dyke, be it black or be it white' is an appellation given to the month, indicating that dykes are filled with rain or melting snow, and certainly the two village ponds and the Nailbourne are brimming with Winter rain.

Molehills march across Court Lodge Green in lines, suddenly turning at a right angle before continuing. Worm rich soil attracts them to this field, as does the churchyard, which is peppered with them, albeit in a more random pattern. These mole runs are in fact traps where the mole can sense if a worm falls into the tunnel, whereupon it will either eat it or store it in a 'larder' for future consumption.

Snowdrops, their shy heads dancing in the breeze, are scattered across the churchyard in clumps, ready to provide pollen for early bees. A bank of them borders the green



area in the school grounds, but the best place to see these Candlemas bells is opposite the cricket ground, where they have proliferated to such an extent that the whole area becomes white at this time of year. February is typically the first month when primroses flower, the word primrose coming from the Latin *primus* or *prima rose* meaning the first 'rose' of the year. Nearing the end of the month there are signs of milder weather as the wind direction swings from the east to the south-west, bringing more rain, interspersed with sunny periods, but as we finally leave February, the nights are cold and frost filled, with early morning fog dissipating as the sun gains height and strength. On the very last day the morning mist is soon replaced by a splendid blue sky, which seems to announce that Spring is not too far away.



Church Services

Valley Methodist Church

A warm welcome awaits you at our services followed by a time of refreshment and fellowship in our Lyminge Church or at our small and beautiful Chapel at Rhodes Minnis. Please note that times and venues may vary.

LYMINGE

Date	Time	Event
1st February	11.00am	Mr David Songer (incl. Holy Communion)
8th February	11.00am	Mr Richard Blackwell
15th February	10.15am	Valley Service at Rhodes Minnis
22nd February	10.00am	Parish Church

Coffee & Cake in aid of Roof Fund: 10 – 12noon, Tuesdays, 10th & 24th February

RHODES MINNIS

Date	Time	Event
1st February	9.30am	A united service with Elham Mr David Songer including Holy Communion
8th February	9.30am	Mrs Val Redding
15th February	10.15am	Valley Service at Rhodes Minnis Rev Gill Songer including Holy Communion
22nd February	9.30am	Rev Malcolm Peach

St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

Date	Location	Time	Event
Sunday 1st February	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am 4.00pm	WOW Service Evensong BCP
Sunday 8th February	Lyminge	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
		6.00pm	Choral Evensong BCP
Sunday 15th February	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am	Holy Communion CW1
		6.00pm	Evening Holy Communion BCP
Wednesday 18th February <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	Elham	6.30pm	Benefice Ash Wednesday Eucharist
Sunday 22nd February <i>First Sunday of Lent</i>	Paddlesworth Lyminge	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Praise - with Pancakes
Sunday 1st March	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am 4.00pm	WOW Service Evensong BCP

If more information is required please contact the Church Wardens, Derek Smith 01303 862508 or Mike Chinneck 01303 863911



Rector's Wonderings..

What Can I Say? A poem by Mary Oliver

What can I say that I have not said before?
So I'll say it again.
The leaf has a song in it.
Stone is the face of patience.
Inside the river there is an unfinished
story
and you are somewhere in it
and it will never end until all ends.

Take your busy heart to the art museum
and the chamber of commerce
but take it also to the forest.
The song you heard singing in the leaf
when you were a child
is singing still.
I am of years lived, so far, seventy-four,
and the leaf is singing still.

I wonder what things nourish your soul?

One way God nourishes our souls is through the beauty of nature.

Throughout the Bible we read about God communicating to us in the skies, ocean waves, breeze rustling through the trees, fields and flowers, and birds.

Jesus often used examples from nature - sparrows, lilies, fig trees, seeds and vines.

A reminder that God is constantly speaking through his creation.

Nature reveals God's beauty, glory, power, wisdom, presence, and creativity.

As psalm 8 tells us - the heavens are telling the glory of God.

There's so much in nature that opens our hearts to God.

To take a walk on a beautiful day, play with your dog in the grass, or hold your cat on your lap, are ways for many people to connect with God's loving presence.

So take time to enjoy God's creation, and let go of stress!

Rediscover what it was that sang when you were a child...

Revd Carol Bates



LYMINGE COMMUNITY HUB

At a meeting of their Cabinet on 21st January, Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FHDC) voted itself the money to convert a community use building to housing. The plan is to convert the whole building of Everist Court in Lyminge to 5 flats, 3 with wheel chair access, at the total cost of £630,775.

FHDC is now anticipating that their, soon to be expected, Planning Application for change from Community Use to Housing will go through on the nod.

Age Concern, and latterly, Age UK, had a Community Centre in the building for 49 years, and for 18 of those years they occupied the whole building.

We have only been asking for the use of the ground floor for a period of about 5 years, to provide a café, thrift shop and monthly repair shop. We would have spaces where various agencies, whether they be part of the health service, other agencies or charities could provide the

advice that is needed, so that people who live in this rural area can access these necessary services.

The Parish Council has plans to build around the Village Hall so that it can once again be available for the community to use, as was originally intended. This will probably take 5 years, which is why we would like the use of the ground floor of Everist Court for that time.

When the Planning

Application for Change of Use from Community to Housing is lodged, there will be three weeks in which to write comments.

We will be asking as many people as possible to write in objections to the loss of a community facility.

If this occurs before the next newsletter we will be using social media and flyers around the village to give you the information needed to be able to write or email the planning department with your objections. So please watch out for this future information.

GH

Letter to the Editor

Lost and Found

Just before Christmas I found a tablet in the road at the entrance to Hogben Close, Lyminge. I've asked around who owns it but to no avail.

If anyone has lost this tablet in this area, please contact me: Chris Vickers Jones, 8 Hogben Close, Lyminge, CT18 8ND.

Chris Vicker Jones

DOG OWNERS please note



Seriously though, please clear up after your dog, particularly in areas of high footfall - pavements, bus stops, community areas, etc. As well as being unpleasant for the unfortunate person who steps in the faeces, it can also be a significant health hazard.

Lyminge Newsletter

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Copy deadline for next edition - 18 February 2026

Please email your copy to the editor at pbarnes20@icloud.com

Your payment must be received before your article or advert can appear in the Newsletter.

Invoices will be issued and should be paid ASAP either by BACs, cheque, credit card or cash (details on invoice).

Business adverts cost from £10 per month or £100 per year.

Personal and charity adverts and articles from £5 per month, or £50.00 per year.

The annual rate offers 12 entries for the price of 10.

Please make cheques payable to '**The Lyminge Association**'. If you do not have email, a typed paper-copy may be left with the payment at the Library. The Newsletter is printed by Canterbury Print & Mail.

The Lyminge Association accepts no liability for the accuracy of the advertisements or subsequent actions arising in conjunction with advertisers in the newsletter.

For further details call Peter Barnes (editor) on 07808 775302 or email pbarnes20@icloud.com

Diary of Forthcoming Events

This page is printed to give readers and organisers the opportunity of planning events without clashing with existing ones, which are already in the 'diary'. It is not intended as a means of advertising and we take no responsibility for errors or omissions. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editor. Please send your updates by email to pbarnes20@icloud.com or via methods outlined on Page 6.

ONE-OFF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
22nd February	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH	
3rd March	7.30pm	Historical Society 'The defense of Kent since 1900'	TC	
6th March	7pm	Film: 'The King'	LPC	
11th April		GARAGE SALE		
11th April	10.00am	Model Railway Exhibition	ELVH	07743 704547
24th April	7.30pm	'The Undecided'	LVH	

Would event organisers please send me details of your forthcoming events for The Event Calendar. This not only helps to promote your event as well as preventing clashes of date.

Thank you - Peter (editor).

MONTHLY EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
1st Mon	10am	Stroke Support Group	C&H	07903 150099
2nd Mon	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	LVH	07999 403948
3rd Mon	10am	Stroke Support Group	C&H	07715 221705
3rd Mon	7pm	Etchinghill Cinema Club	EVH	07544 670363
1st Tues	2pm	RBL, Elham Valley Branch	SMCHE	07734 383691
1st Tues	2pm	Railway Readers 1	LL	03000413 131
1st Tues ³	7.30pm	LHS Talk/Event	TC	863879
2nd Tues	2.30pm	Library Reading Group	LL	03000413 131
3rd Tues ²	7.30pm	Gardeners' Society	TC	07703 149008
Last Tues	10.15am	Lyminge Poetry Group	LL	03000413 131
1st Wed	10.30am	Lyminge Friends	TC	07904157897
4th Wed	2.30pm	RM Circle	RVH	864256
Last Wed	7.30pm	Quiz Night	C&H	013033901011
2nd Sat	10am	Postling Church, Coffee Morning	PC	863536
2nd Sat	10am	Ethelburga Quilters	EVH	
4th Sun	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH	

WEEKLY EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
Mon	10am	Bridge Club	LBC	863177
Mon	10.30am	Lyminge Larks (Singing)	LMC	07951 572920
Mon	10.30am	Chromatic Greys Art Class	EVH	07783 575802
Mon	5.15pm	Pilates	EVH	07951 698008
Mon	6.30pm	Ballroom/Latin/Salsa Dancing	TC	07966 751991
Mon	6.30pm	Judo Club	LVH	07369 225021
Mon	7pm	Pilates	EVH	07951 698008
Mon	7pm	Yoga	RMV	07977 503897
Tues	9.30am	Tai Chi Qigong	EVH	07402 203239
Tues	10am	Lyminge Baby & Toddler Group	TC	07870 405567
Tues	11.45am	Pilates	EVH	07834 839801
Tues	1pm	Seated Yoga	TC	
Tues	1.45pm	Pickleball	EVH	862696
Tues	6pm	Board Games Night	CC	
Tues	6.45pm	Short Mat Bowls	LVH	863842
Tues	7pm	Bridge Club	EVH	07790 160476
Wed	10am	Pilates	TC	07825 109670
Wed	10am	Baby/Toddler Group	EVH	07817 777975
Wed	11.30am	Singing for all (term time only)	TC/LMC	269602
Wed	7.15pm	Cantores Dominicae Choir	LMC	07813 071867
Thurs	10am	Lyminge Morning Art Group	EVH	01303 211364
Thurs	10.15am	Baby Rhyme Time	LL	0300 0413 131
Thurs	2pm	Lyminge Afternoon Art Group	TC	07870 494644
Thurs	5pm	Pilates	TC	07951 698008
Thurs	6.15pm	Pilates	TC	07951 698008
Thurs	7pm	Short Mat Bowls	LVH	863842
Thurs	7.30pm	Ballroom and Latin Dancing	EVH	07967 979610
Fri	9.15am	Nikki Barratt Art Group	EVH	07871 494644
Fri	10.15am	Talk Time	LL	0300 0413 131
Fri	6pm	Junior Cricket Training	SPCC	07869 283195
Fri	7pm	Table Tennis	EVH	

¹ In term time only

³ Except Jan, Feb, and trip in Aug

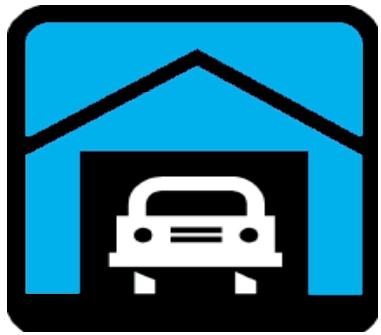
⁵ Not held in August

² Except Jan and Feb

⁴ Except Aug and Dec

^{**} Every three months

C&H: Coach & Horses; **CC:** Coffee Cabin **EGC:** Etchinghill Golf Club; **ERA:** Etchinghill Residents' Association; **ES:** Elham Square, **EVH:** Etchinghill Village Hall; **ELVH:** Elham Village Hall; **EVLT:** Elham Valley Line Trust; **JF:** Jubilee Field; **LB:** Laing Bennett; **LBC:** Bowls Club; **LL:** Library; **LMC:** Lyminge Methodist Church; **LPC:** Lyminge Parish Church; **LPS:** Lyminge Primary School; **LVH:** Lyminge Village Hall; **LW:** Lord Whisky; **MP:** Meriden Park **NP:** Nailbourne Court; **PC:** Postling Church; **PH:** Lord Whisky, Park House; **PVH:** Postling Village Hall; **RVH:** Rhodes Minnis Village Hall; **RC:** Rhodes Minnis Church; **RMCS:** Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary; **RR:** Riddon Room; **SMCH:** St Mary's Church Hall, Elham; **SMVH:** Stelling Minnis Village Hall; **SNL:** See Newsletter for info; **SP:** Sibton Park; **SPCC:** Sibton Park Cricket Club; **TC:** Tayne Centre; **TF:** Tayne Field; **WF:** Well Field



**GARAGE
SALE**

with TABLE SALE
at Lyminge Village Hall

Saturday 11th April

More details next month

The Lyminge Association

have great pleasure in welcoming on stage



Lyminge Village Hall

7.30pm Friday 24th April

Cost £7.50 per ticket Bring your own food and drink

More details next month

Etchinghill update

- February 2026

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)

For enquiries, please call - 07739 998262

Website: www.etchinghill.info  Etchinghill Residents

FILM NIGHT - ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL - MONDAY 16th FEBRUARY - DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR A 7.30 START - 'BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND' 2025 (12) Run time : 1hr 39 mins. Comedy/Drama starring Tom Basden, Tim Key and Carey Mulligan. An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island tries to make his fantasies come true by getting his favourite musicians to perform at his home. Entry fee is only £6pp and includes a glass of wine, tea or coffee with biscuits on arrival and entry into a free raffle. New members are welcome, simply register and pay on the night, there's no need to book.

ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL

(Charity 302736)

Chairman: John White
 Etchinghill Village Hall Kent

Bookings:

Anna Allan 07514 758936
Email: d.allan142@btinternet.com

Our first ever Psychic Artisan Fayre will take place on a Saturday commencing in March with more to come during the year.

Don't forget to book your party at our hall as soon as you can as the weekends are filling up fast.



As our village grows and changes please can we all be more mindful of where and how we park. Please leave room for pedestrians, pushchairs and mobility scooters to pass on footpaths, especially along Canterbury Road. Many of our roads are 'No Through' roads and inconsiderate parking can form pinch points. This could make it difficult for large vehicles and emergency services to access the area. Vehicles parked close to the junction of Teddars Leas Road and Canterbury Road can make it difficult to see oncoming vehicles.

News contact: Karen Hickman - 07521 372477 or email: kdhickman@me.com

Have Your Say : Lyminge Village Hall Car Park

Lyminge Parish Council has received a number of comments from local residents about how the Village Hall car park is being used. These include concerns about vehicles being parked in a disorganised way, some cars being left for excessive periods of time, and occasional late-night activity that has caused disturbance to nearby homes in Woodland Road.

The Village Hall car park is privately owned and is intended primarily for use by people visiting the hall and its facilities.

One idea that has been suggested is installing a barrier at the entrance to the car park, which would be closed overnight only. Pedestrian access would still be available, including access to the bridleway.

We would really value hearing your thoughts on this, or any other ideas you may have, to help us look after the car park, improve safety and security, and reduce disturbance for nearby residents — while still keeping the area accessible for the community.

We appreciate you taking the time to share your views.

Please email your views to clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

District Councillors' update

– January 2026



Government Re-organisation – On 14 January, Members had a briefing from the ex-Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council. He took us through the process of where we are now in terms of Local Government re-organisation up to vesting day and beyond. It looks likely from what we know and from what he says that current Members will be expected to do another year until May 2028: some will decide to stand for the Shadow Body which will be elected in May 2027. Concerns were expressed by many Councillors on the costs and time scale of the re-organisation. However, it was emphasised that we should be looking at the opportunities re-organisation could bring if changes were looked at positively!

Storm Goretta – The District Council worked closely with Kent County Council to re-open Sandgate Esplanade after strong and forceful winds overnight caused damage to the sea wall and railings and beach-huts. Diggers are clearing the back of the sea wall to allow water to drain from the road, while teams are re-siting beach huts where possible and beginning to clear shingle from promenades.

Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – A regular free e-newsletter can be accessed from kent-pcc.gov.uk – the current edition talks about the Plans for 2026, Police Property Act Fund, Police Funding etc.

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Ward Grant – I have a small amount of funding available which has to be allocated before the end of February. Please email me if this is of interest to you.

Contact:
jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Residents have until 30 January to comment on Folkestone & Hythe District Council's budget strategy for 2026/27. To comment on the strategy and to read the detailed supporting documents visit the F&HDC website. You can also visit the Civic Centre in Folkestone between 10am until 3pm. All feedback submitted will be considered as the detailed draft budget is developed. It will then be voted on by elected members in February 2026.

A new group of students became members of the council's youth forum. Young people from six local schools visited the Civic Centre. The group learned about local government and discussed a variety of topics including solar farms, the refurbishment of the Lower Leas Coastal Park play area and the council's use of social media.

District Councillors agreed to reaffirm their commitment to local volunteers and community groups supporting residents. There was unanimous support to continue to back the services helping people with cost of living issues. Councillors also agreed that a letter should be sent to KCC calling for its decisions to abolish or scale down its discretionary

emergency schemes be reversed.

In severe weather conditions, in line with national guidance from Homeless Link, the council implement a scheme called SWEP. In the recent severe weather conditions, the council operated SWEP for more than two weeks. The council offers accommodation for rough sleepers and it is also an opportunity to engage with hard to reach groups and signpost them to appropriate support services.

The stabilisation work required above the play area in the Lower Leas Coastal Park in Folkestone is due to begin this month. The cliff will need to be shored up following a landslide last year. Once complete, the work on the fun zone's £750,000 refurbishment can begin. This will see new equipment and layout and is due to be ready for summer this year.

Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Local Village Taxi

For all your travel arrangements

Contact Richard
07970 12 12 12



ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Film Night

MONDAY 16th February

"BALLAD OF WALLIS ISLAND"
12 (2025) - Run Time: 1hrs 39mins

Etchinghill Village Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
Entrance Fee £6pp

Open to new and existing members
Free Refreshments and Raffle



www.etchinghill.info

Fifth Trust update



the fifth trust
supporting adults with learning disabilities

www.fifthtrust.co.uk

We sell a large range of firewood logs which we can deliver direct to your home in the East Kent area. Plus, we offer **FREE STACKING** to our customers! You can also buy nets of logs from the Vineyard Garden Centre, along with kindling and fire-lighters, and log stores made at our Wood Shack.

Woodsure-accredited, our logs are guaranteed to be 20% moisture content or less on delivery. For them to stay this dry, we advise that they are stored in a shed, garage or log store which isn't open to the elements. All profits from the sale of logs are ploughed back into The Fifth Trust charity. Order now on 01227 831052 – select call option 2, weekdays only.

If our phone lines are busy, please email logs@fifthtrust.co.uk with your enquiry.

This Newsletter can be viewed online and in colour at www.lyminge.org.uk/newsletter

Auntie Win

Dear Auntie Win
at ninety three
keeps looking across
and muttering at me.

She's sitting as usual
in her favourite place
busily knitting at a
phenomenal pace.

It's bitterly cold
and the torrential rain-
she simply ignores and
treats with disdain.

She's not very happy
with me poor dear-
I'm not her favourite
nephew that's clear.

She's a tough old lady
is my Auntie Win
but she'll drown out
there if I don't let her in.

Written by: JT Sandgate Creative Circle Tel - 07435 580028

THE TOWER THEATRE FOLKESTONE

AFHODS
THE FOLKESTONE HYTHE OPERATIC
& DRAMATIC SOCIETY LTD



Sat 7 February - 11am & 2pm



Fri 13 February - 7.30pm



Mon 16 February - 1pm & 3pm



Wed 18 February - 11am & 2pm



Fri 27 February - 7.30pm



14th - 16th May



Fri 20 March - 7.30pm



Sat 21 March - 7.30pm



Sat 28 March - 7.30pm

For full details of all our forthcoming shows and to book tickets, please visit towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk or call the Box Office on 01303 223925

The Tower Theatre, North Road, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3HL

Registered Charity 1180504



About Us

We are a passionate pet care service dedicated to the happiness and health of your beloved companions. Fully insured pet care catering to all your pet needs in Lyminge and surrounding areas! From dog walks to quick drop-ins for cats, pups, and small animals. We treat your family like our own. We specialize in late afternoon and evening dog walks and pet drop-ins during the week, with flexible appointment slots available over the weekend.

Our Services

- Group Walks.
- Solo Walks.
- Pop-in service.

Contact Us

07780001890

codysdogtales@hotmail.com

www.codysdogtales.co.uk

Instagram/Facebook/TikTok
(Cody's Dog Tales)



Cody's Dog Tales
Dog Walking/Pet Services

SIMPLY CHUFFED TO BE FIRST IN 10 YEARS!

Small trains will be steaming into Elham during early spring when the village hall hosts a model railway exhibition on Saturday 11 April.

Some 14 layouts and eight reputable specialist traders feature at the event being organised jointly by the Elham Valley Model Railway Club and the Whitstable based East Kent Model Railway Society.

The event is designed to appeal to families as well as enthusiasts of all ages and skill levels. The exhibits range in size from a couple of feet wide to others up to 17 feet long depicting busy junctions and swathes of landscape. A highlight will be Elham Valley Model Railway Club's layout depicting Elham Station as it was 100 years ago.

EKMRS Chairman Nick Evans said, "We were delighted to be invited by Elham Valley MRC to organise an exhibition for the village as we are ever keen to attract new audiences to our events. The last time Elham enjoyed an event of this kind was back in 2016."

Model railways have an enduring appeal across the age range and this will be reflected in the exhibits on display – some will feature traditional steam outlines while others are just as likely to include more modern diesel and electric styles of rolling stock. Sophisticated electronics enable them to be controlled by tablet or smart-phone while also offering a higher level of detail. Exhibits are coming from across the county and belong either to clubs or individual enthusiasts.

Traders will be offering a wide selection of pre-loved and nearly new models, accessories and spare parts, some of them elusive.

The exhibition will be open between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 11 April 2026. Adult admission is £6, children under five are free, children aged 5-16 £1 and families (2+3) £12.

There is limited parking at the village hall but it offers some spaces for blue badge holders. More parking is available in the centre of the village. Elham is served by hourly Stagecoach route 17 buses from Folkestone and Canterbury, taking about 30 minutes from either end.

Further information from EKMRS Chairman Nick Evans on 07743 704547 or nickevanscomms@sky.com.



Your Local Pharmacy



- NHS & Private Prescriptions
- Travel and Speciality Vaccination Clinic
- Weight Loss Clinic
- FREE Delivery Available
- Private Prescriber Available
- Emergency Medication Supply
- NHS Flu & Covid Vaccinations
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Pharmacy First Service
- ONE YOU Stop Smoking Provider



Delivering prescriptions to the local community of Lyminge, Elham, Etchinghill, Postling, Hythe, Rhodes Minnis, Stelling Minnis and the surrounding areas.

Ask a member of staff to learn more

**Contact us at
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**EMAIL:
lymingeinformed@gmail.com
Or come in to the store:
21 Station Road, Lyminge
Folkestone CT18 8HQ**

GARAGE SALE - 11TH APRIL



F A B R I C

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FREE and booking is not required.

For further information call us on 01303 269602

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4th February

11:30AM – 12:30PM

at The Tayne Centre.

Church Road, Lyminge, CT18 8JN

Wednesday 11th, 18th and 25th February

11:30AM – 12:30PM

at the Methodist Church.

Church Rd, Lyminge, CT18 8JA



Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford
Registered charity number 1125274.
Company number 6589817.
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BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING

**Cha Cha Cha ~Waltz ~Jive ~ Quickstep ~
Rumba ~ Foxtrot and more**

Etchinghill Village Hall

Join us from 15 January 2026

Beginner Class

Thursdays 7.30 - 8.30pm

Improver Class

Thursdays 8.30 - 9.30 pm

£7 per person per hour

Bring your two left feet and your sense of humour.
Get FIT, get HEALTHY & get DANCING

Partners not necessary

To join any of the classes, and for further details, or information about private lessons, please contact Lynn on 07967979610

lynn.chapman0127@btinternet.com

IDTA (AB), (AL), (SalDip)

The Tayne Centre Lyminge



DANCE MOTION

A simple, follow-along dance-based fitness class at a lower intensity.



Enjoy easy-to-follow routines set to feel-good hits from the 60s through the 80s.

Perfect for moving, smiling, and staying active at a gentler pace - no experience necessary!

Armchair-a-cise

A gentle, full-body workout done entirely from a seated position.

This low-impact class is perfect for all abilities and focuses on strength, mobility, and overall wellbeing.

if you would like to join a class at the Tayne Centre

Friday mornings

10:15- 11:15 - DanceMotion £6.50

11.30 -12:15 - Armchair-a-cise £6.00

contact us on
acac.class@outlook.com



Beginner Ukulele Classes

All are welcome, no experience needed!

Every Monday

9:30am to 11:30am

Starting Monday 12th January 2026

Always wanted to play an instrument? The ukulele is one of the easiest (and most fun!) to learn – perfect for beginners



The Hythe Cricket and Squash Club,
Ladies Walk, Hythe, CT21 6AX

£14.00 for 2 hours of learning!

If you have any questions, please call **01303 269602**

Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6589817. © Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2025.

Minute Secretary Needed - The Lyminge Association

The Lyminge Association would love to welcome a minute secretary into its fold to support a dynamic, committed, voluntary and friendly committee.

We meet monthly - usually on a **Thursday evening**, at **The Bowls Clubhouse** with the meeting lasting about **1.5 hours**.

The person we are hoping to attract would have strong minute-taking, organisational and communication skills together with attention to detail and IT literacy - Word, Excel.

The Association is a **community-led group** responsible for a number of social occasions throughout the year, as well as raising funds to support the various organisations in our area. This role provides an ideal opportunity to give something back to the community.

It operates independently of the **Lyminge Parish Council** or **Lyminge Village Hall**.

Should you feel you fit this role, please contact the chair, **Heather Dunford** by email: heather.dunford@gmail.com or phone 07427 664084.

Alternatively, you can contact the **Editor** of the Lyminge Newsletter, **Peter Barnes**, pbarnes20@icloud.com or phone 01303 863737.

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LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026

A Talk by



Ashford Beekeepers

Friendship & Knowledge through beekeeping

Tuesday 17th February
The Tayne Centre
Refreshments from 7:15pm
Talk starts 7:30pm

**Non-Members
very welcome**



For more information about the Gardeners' Society email: lymingegardeners@gmail.com

or call

Anne on 07703 149 008 or Heather on 07427 664 084

Lyminge Village Film Night

'KING RICHARD'

starring Will Smith
'18' rating

An uplifting, inspiring film based on a true story of an extraordinary family with unconditional belief to achieve their goals and dreams.

No booking required, just turn up
Lyminge Parish Church
Friday 6th March 2026

Doors open **6pm** for meet and mingle

Film commences at **7pm**

Free entry, bring your own nibbles and drinks.

ALL WELCOME

**LYMINGE AND
ELHAM VALLEY
STROKE
SUPPORT**



**Have you or
someone
you know
been
affected by
a stroke?**

2nd and 16th February

Come and join our informal support group (no membership fees to pay). We usually meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month between 10:00am and Noon at The Coach & Horses, Lyminge

New faces very welcome

**29th January
Stroke Prevention Day**
We have been actively promoting Stroke Prevention Day and you may have seen some leaflets etc around the village.

Strokes can be life changing. Anything you can do to prevent this happening to you is worth doing.
<https://www.stroke.org.uk/stroke-prevention-day>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TO CHECK THE DATES OF MEETINGS/EVENTS, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE SUPPORT BUT ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS
EMAIL: LYMINGESTROKESOCIAL@GMAIL.COM
TELEPHONE FRAN ON 07846 177 409 OR HEATHER ON 07427 664 084



Cantores

Your friendly local choir

Rehearsals restart this term on

Wednesday 25th February 2026
Lyminge Methodist Church
7.15 – 9.15 pm

we have a 15 minute refreshment break – so time to chat too

This term we will be learning a Schubert Mass, some Mozart and Haydn in preparation for our Viennese Concert on May 16th

New members will be most welcome
Come and give us a try
Contact our Chair – Alison
cantorescommittee@gmail.com



Counselling, Supervision and Mindfulness

Supporting you with anxiety, depression, stress bereavement and loss, relationships, trauma...

In person or online
Hythe area

Contact Ellen for more information or to book

Call: 07740 857109

Email: ejgarrard2712@gmail.com

Visit: www.ellengarrard.co.uk



THE UNDECIDED - LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAY 24TH APRIL



GARAGE SALE

with TABLE SALE
at Lyminge Village Hall

Saturday 11th April

More details next month



From
Christopher Hespe,
Kent County
Councillor for Elham
Valley

May I take this opportunity to wish every resident of Elham Valley a lovely New Year.

Council Tax

For each of the past 12 years, the previous administration at KCC increased Council Tax by the maximum amount allowed, which is currently 5%. The new administration is breaking that mould and has announced an increase of 3.99% for 2026/27. Although the Reform-led Council inherited a dire financial position, prudent management of the finances has allowed the authority to stabilise finances. Although a greater reduction in the amount sought would have been ideal, the authority has to maintain its statutory services and ensure the budget is balanced and sustainable. The administration is working towards potentially making further reductions in the 'ask' for future years.

We inherited a £732 million debt, daily debt interest payments of £84 million, a £20.1 million overspend, £121 million savings target for the year and a ballooning Adult Social Care budget. In nine months of the new administration, £100 million of savings have been achieved, debt has been reduced by £67 million and nearly £40 million of future spend re-profiled, enabling the lower-than-expected Council Tax demand.

International Rail

KCC continues to lobby government and other stakeholders hard for the return of international rail services to Ashford and Ebbsfleet. Further to KCC's major event some months ago, Ashford BC ran a local event in Ashford to further push the concept on 8 January.

Supplier Conference

KCC has produced its first commercial strategy, to ensure that it gets best value for residents from every pound spent and that Kent-based companies benefit from the annual £1.4 billion KCC procurement each year. In the past six months, there has been a significant growth in the number of Kent companies winning contracts. KCC is organising a Supplier Conference at The Showground, Detling on 27 January for suppliers to learn more about winning KCC contracts. To date, 600 have signed up to attend the free event.

Community Wardens

KCC has been expanding the number of Community Wardens and now enables Parish and Town Councils to pay for new posts. KCC would welcome discussions with any Parish or Town Council interested in exploring this further.

Environment Tax on Foreign Lorries

Kent's roads are damaged by large vehicles. KCC is pursuing vigorously the concept of foreign lorries being charged for use of Kent's roads. I would be happy to update via this Parish newsletter as this develops.

KCC Highways

Since taking control of KCC in May 2025, 6,500 gullies have been drained and 35,000 potholes filled (already more than in the whole of last year). KCC Highways has recently been shortlisted for the 'most improved performance' award by the Local Government Association; although KCC is adamant that further improvements will always be sought, as it attempts to manage Kent's 5,500 miles of roads.

Nuclear and Energy

KCC's stance is not anti-solar, but anti solar developments on high grade agricultural land. KCC has been leading on work to secure new nuclear provision at Dungeness. This is a long-term project, but a high priority for KCC, which has had a series of meetings with Westminster and major companies. There is significant support from the locality.

Chris Hespe

Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley and Deputy Cabinet Member for Finance and Cross-Cabinet Activity

Antiquarian Books Wanted

[no paperbacks or annuals please]

Call Jonathan on

07545 043065 or

email: louis88books@gmail.com

Louis88Books



Lyminge Friends

Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 4th February** which will be our AGM followed by the postponed talk on '**FRAUD AND SCAMS**' by **KENT POLICE**.



Kent Police

For this meeting only there will be no charge. There will be the usual raffle as well as Tea/Coffee and Cake!

Our meeting on Wednesday, 4th March is our first speaker of the year and the topic is "*The Forensic Investigation of Homicide*" – Speaker David Tadd

We are a friendly social group and welcome new members and visitors so just drop into a meeting, or if you'd like to talk to one of us first, please call 07904 157897. All meetings are held in The Methodist Church, Church Road, Lyminge from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. unless stated otherwise.

Kingdom
INTERIORS

- Carpets & Flooring
- Painting & Decorating
- Interior Inspiration

Your local, experienced, interior specialists, covering Hythe, Folkestone, New Romney, Lympne, Elham Valley and surrounding villages.

01303 901298

Email: shop@kingdom-interiors.co.uk
www.kingdom-interiors.co.uk

Be an active part of your community - join The Lyminge Association

Community Meals

Our Home Meal Delivery Service brings you a freshly cooked hot meal and dessert, delivered straight to your door — hot, tasty, and ready to eat. We're here for you 365 days a year, making sure you never have to worry about missing a meal. In addition to your main meal, a Tea-Time Bag is also available, providing a light and convenient option for later in the day.



Fun, friendship, and activities for everyone

At Age UK Hythe, our Day Services are all about bringing people together to enjoy stimulating, engaging and enjoyable activities in a welcoming and supportive environment. We offer a wide range of activities to suit every interest, from singing, art and painting, to cooking sessions and craft projects. For those who enjoy being active, we also provide opportunities for gentle physical activities such as New Age Curling and chair-based exercises.



Dementia Day Care Services

Our Dementia Day Care service provides a warm, supportive environment where people living with dementia can enjoy stimulating activities, companionship, and care tailored to their needs. From music, art, and gentle physical activities to reminiscence sessions and sensory experiences, our programmes are designed to help maintain skills, build confidence, and create moments of joy. Families can feel reassured knowing their loved one is supported by our experienced team.



For more details please contact:
Age UK Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford

01303 269602

www.ageuk.org.uk/hythenymingearshford/

Age UK Hythe: The Community Support Hub, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD.

Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6589817. © Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2025.

Information & Advice: Drop In Sessions

Every Monday
Drop In Sessions are
open from 10AM - 1PM



**Lyminge Library, 7-9 Station Rd,
Lyminge, Folkestone CT18 8HS**

Need support with benefits, available services or other issues affecting later life? Our Information & Advice Drop-In offers free, confidential guidance on a range of topics, including:

- ✓ Benefit checks to see what you may be entitled to
- ✓ Blue Badge applications
- ✓ Local community resources
- ✓ Health & wellbeing services

No appointment needed—just drop in and speak with our friendly team!

Call **01303 269602** for more information



Registered charity number 1125274.

Company number 6589817.

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Lyminge Historical Society

TUESDAY 3 MARCH 7.30PM

At the Tayne Centre, Church Road, Lyminge CT18 8JA



The defence of Kent since 1900

Speaker: Dr Andrew Richardson

Members Free. New members and visitors are always welcome. Visitors: £5 Payable on the door

2026 Annual Subscription of £12 may be paid at the meeting

All our books are on sale at our meetings, at the Library and at Lyminge Village Store.

We accept payments by cash or card.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Society is taking its normal winter break in January and February.

Our monthly meetings will resume in March and will continue with:

7 April 2026: An American Civil War veteran in Folkestone – Gina Costin

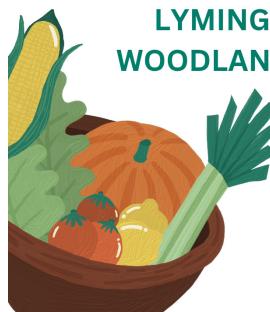
5 May 2026: Magna Carta and Canterbury – Cressida Williams

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**22nd February
22nd March
26th April
24th May**

**LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL
WOODLAND ROAD CT18 8EW**



THE KING'S ARMS

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR COUNTRY PUB...

QUIZ NIGHTS

JOIN US ON THE 2ND MONDAY OF
EVERY MONTH FOR A QUIZ NIGHT
FULL OF TRIVIA, THEMED
ROUNDS AND PRIZES!
TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE

MUSIC

SATURDAYS

JOIN US EVERY SATURDAY 4-6PM
FOR LIVE MUSIC!
BRING YOUR FRIENDS, ENJOY
THE MUSIC AND MAKE SATURDAY
AFTERNOONS YOUR NEW
FAVOURITE TIME OF THE WEEK!

KITCHEN OPENING HOURS

Our Winter Menu -	Friday & Saturday -
<u>Monday - Thursday</u>	Lunch 12-3pm
Lunch 12-3pm	Dinner 5.30-9pm
Dinner 5.30-8.30pm	<u>Sunday</u>
	Lunch 12-6pm

Golden Years Menu (65+)

Monday - Friday
12-3pm

BAR MENU
MONDAY - SATURDAY
12-5PM

**FOR RESERVATIONS &
ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL US ON
01303 840242**

Email: info@thekingsarmselham.com
Address: The Square, St Mary's Rd, Elham
Canterbury, CT4 6TJ

Thoughtful Food...

...is a group of local volunteers looking at our food, and how this impacts climate change. Our aims are to support people to produce more of their own food, and to shop locally, sourcing seasonal produce. We also run a community allotment in Lyminge and welcome new members.

✉ thoughtfulfoodgroup@gmail.com Ⓛ [@thoughtfulfoodgroup](https://www.facebook.com/thoughtfulfoodgroup)

Next **Thoughtful Food** meeting, **7.30pm MONDAY 23rd February**, at The Coach & Horses.



Docker Bakehouse and Brewery isn't really local - are Folkestone/Hythe/Ashford local? - but extremely worthy of being featured here. This month we are focusing on the Bakehouse that strives to hand-craft 'bread that is incredibly delicious, and sustaining in a way that benefits the community, customers and the environment'.

We plan to feature the brewery later in the year, highlighting its hop growing scheme. However, it is a measure of success that founders Wes Burden and Peter Nelson, both lovers of the fermentation



processes involved in craft brewing and sourdough baking, that they have grown their business and split it into two arms, giving room for each to grow and flourish.

What now sits in a large industrial unit on the Park Farm industrial estate in Folkestone (humbly tucked away between Sainsbury's and Home Bargains) started in a shipping container on the Harbour Arm in 2016 before they became a thing, with no insulation or windows by a designer who had a passion for home baking.

This home baker was Wes Burden whose passion has not diminished even if his bread making is a bit less hands on now. He has a brilliant team of 40 people baking around 300 loaves and pastries per week.

This is all done as sustainably as

possible. Flour, wherever possible is sourced from sustainable growers and mills. The huge bread oven is fuelled by wooden pellets grown sustainably in a wood in Yorkshire. Packing and distribution are also carefully considered, with no plastic use. How to get the product to where it needs to be is also a major consideration. This adds costs to the products which ultimately has to be passed onto the customer. Wes believes this is the right thing to do.

Walking into the bakery you are struck by 'the team', the staff who lovingly shape and make the loaves and pastries and the staff in the office who also hold this belief.



Thank you so much to Wes and Angela for the wonderful tour and the goody bags!

We did talk about the difficulty of finding Docker bread in Lyminge or nearby and we think we may have a solution. What if there was a rota of around 10 people who would be prepared to drive to Folkestone maybe once a month to collect online orders? Or there may even be some of you who go to Folkestone on a regular basis who could do this for us? Please could you contact us via social media if you are interested. [Thoughtfulfoodgroup@gmail.com](mailto:thoughtfulfoodgroup@gmail.com) or on Facebook and [@thoughtfulfoodgroup](https://www.instagram.com/thoughtfulfoodgroup).

If you do visit the bakery you can also pick up some fresh flowers

grown on a strip of garden at the back of the unit by <https://www.folkestoneflowerfarm.co.uk> How cool and connected is that!

To see the wonderful products available from the Bakehouse, and where you can find them as well as how to order online for collection, visit <https://dockerbakery.com>

How to make the most from a sourdough loaf.

Just eat it; it is very hard to resist.... but it is rightly expensive so there are ways to make it last. One slice is so much more satisfying than a slice of processed bread and it will last longer. Slice the whole loaf, keep out what you will use then and tomorrow and put the rest in the freezer. It defrosts quite quickly or can be toasted from frozen (halving the calories!).

- Sour dough bread is high in fibre helping to lower cholesterol and keep digestive systems regular.
- It contains probiotics which help to maintain a healthy digestive system by feeding the good bacteria in your gut.
- It has less sugar than other breads and is high in protein.
- It contains Vitamin B6 which is important for brain function and protects against depression and dementia.

Whilst something on toast is seen as a breakfast or lunch option, adding a salad and being creative with toppings could turn sourdough into a dinner option. Try caramelised leek & crushed fava bean. Or roasted tomatoes and kale, yummy....



LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

The following meetings all take place at: Lyminge Village Hall

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

3 February - 18.30 and 25 February - 18.00

PLANNING AND LICENSING -

3 February - 19.30

FINANCE AND ADMIN

10 February - 19.30

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS -

10 February - 17.30

FULL COUNCIL -

17 February - 19.00

Please note all Planning Meetings will now be held at Lyminge Village Hall.

Any additional meetings will be on our noticeboards/website

WHO'S WHO

Chairman of Lyminge Parish Council:

Cllr Shaun Pottage

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Neighbourhood Plan:

Cllr Sue Baldwin

Planning and Licensing:

Cllr Emily Arnold

Community Engagement and Events:

Cllr Sarah Fagg

Finance and Administration:

Cllr Sandra Harrison

Councillor contact details on our website.

www.lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

email: debbie.capon@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

WHAT WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH:

In the past month we have undertaken a number of play equipment repairs. Here are a few of them.

Jubilee Field - Climbing frame removed as assessed unfit for use. Installed a Beam Seat in its place.



Installed 2 new cradle seats at Well Field.

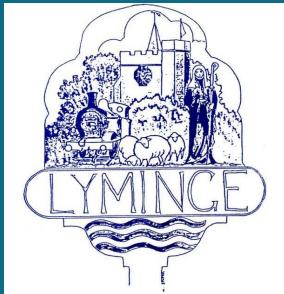


Replaced a seat on the exercise machine at Jubilee Field



Village hall light and well roof light cleaned. On the corner of Fox Close and Brady Road, we have asked Kent County Council for new salt bins.

Three new benches have now been ordered.



LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

Stiles were traditionally installed to allow people to cross fences and walls while restricting the movement of livestock. While they served a useful purpose in the past, they now present a significant barrier for many users. People with mobility issues, older residents, parents with pushchairs and dog walkers can all find styles difficult or impossible to use.

Under the Equality Act 2010, highway authorities have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to public rights of way to ensure they are accessible to disadvantaged people whenever reasonably practical. This approach is supported by the current guidance and British Standards (BS5709), which promotes the use of the “least restrictive option” when managing access along public rights of way.

Preferred alternatives are set out as follows:

- 1. Gaps:** The ideal solution where livestock control is not an issue, providing unrestricted access for all users.
- 2. Gates:** Where some form of control is required, self-closing, two-way opening gates - such as kissing gates - are the preferred option. Many local authorities now offer free gate kits to land owners to encourage the replacement of stiles.
- 3. Stiles:** These are generally a last resort and new stiles are rarely authorised.

What do people think?

Are there particular locations where these stiles continue to cause difficulties, or examples where replacing them with gaps or gates has worked well?

We would love to hear your views and experiences on paths and footpaths in our parish and what you would like to see happen.

If you would like to get in touch, please email:

debbie.capon@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

mob:07999 403948

clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Through the Window

As I look out into the garden, my attention is arrested by two doves forever foraging. For me they are the embodiment of harmony and peace.

Perhaps what makes them so is that I think of them as icons. But whatever it is, my imagination's lit and soars towards a different kind of world, called unity.

Where the thought we're separate from each other
isolated and alone, is false.
We're each facets of one benign
and ever-expanding creative consciousness,

And with this thought, the fear is gone,
that makes me see in you what you are not-
a threat, an enemy, someone to blame,
hide from, prove wrong, give in to or defeat

But how can I unlearn a life-long habit
of believing separation's true?
Can I rewire the neural pathways stamped
repeatedly by fear within my brain?

I believe I can, by using gifts already
mine- a heart that's quietly attuned
to truth and an imagination free to accept it,
the will to live a life reflecting its honest life.

Not easy, but by joining up
two precious gifts. Imagination's one,
the other's intuition, that is, attuning
to the quiet leanings of the heart.

Be conscious of each self-condemning thought,
realise I don't need it, let it go-
along with thoughts condemn others.
Find the unique goodness in us all-
one I meet, imagine loving them,
even when they don't agree with me.

Phil Gould (who sadly passed away May 2025)
Lyminge Poetry Group

A Robin's Valentine

I wear my heart upon my breast,
It's bigger, rosier than the rest,
No matter that it's upside down,
I'll be your king and wear your crown.

All winter this was my domain,
No other Robins could remain
To raid the feeders, mine all mine,
The single life my brain's design.

But now I sense a change of mind,
The sun now signals "Mate to find,
Instead of squabble, time to flirt",
I'm searching for a bit of skirt!

Please build for us a mossy nest
And incubate. I'll do the rest,
By bringing protein-laden worms
And insects, bugs and all that squirms.

In time we'll see our nestlings fledge
And still I will maintain my pledge
To feed and cherish fledgling chicks,
No matter if we've five or six.

So let us now our hearts combine,
No longer lonely should we pine.
Some flowers for my Valentine,
Look- Primroses and Celandine!

Wendy Perkins

Lyminge Poetry Group





We Need Your Help to Identify...

Swift & Owl Nest Box Sites in the Parish

Please use this link or QR code to let us know where you think would be good locations in the Parish for placing nest boxes for swifts, barn owls, or tawny owls: <https://forms.gle/JbQczmtTiuA3ZrgH7>



According to the RSPB, "Each year, swifts fly from Africa to the UK to breed, but numbers here are plummeting and they desperately need help. In just 25 years, more than half of our swifts have vanished and the loss of nest sites in the roofs of buildings appears to be at least partly responsible."

Therefore providing nest-boxes designed specifically for swifts has become a key action to help reverse the decline. Please send us your thoughts on where you see swifts regularly and where you think would be potential suitable locations for swift boxes, bearing in mind the following recommendations from the RSPB: The boxes need to be placed on the wall of a building, tightly under the eaves (where the roof hangs over the walls). It should be at least 5m (16 feet) above the ground and easy for swifts to fly into. Think of how a swift will approach the nest – it flies down and then up to the nest site at speed, the upward swoop helps it slow down to land. The box shouldn't be in direct sunlight, so should be on a wall that faces north, east or somewhere in between.

Owls are also in need of suitable

nest sites, tawny owls nest in tree cavities while barn owls nest in tree cavities or inside barns and other suitable buildings. Both species can be helped locally by providing nest boxes. It is recommended that for barn owls, at least 2 boxes are provided within 500m of each other.

Please let us know where in the Parish barn owls can be found, and if you have any ideas for great locations for nest boxes for barn owls or for tawny owls. Please send us your thoughts on the link / QR Code above, or by email to tony.ing@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan: Significant Local Views Policy

One of the policies being developed for the Neighbourhood Plan aims to identify views that are particularly special and to safeguard from the impacts of development. To do this we need to identify the key views that should be protected, and for each, develop a description and photograph with a map showing the location, direction and breadth of the view.

Please let us know about views you think should be included, by contacting the Parish Council (barbara.vinham@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk). The views that have been suggested so far during local consultations include:

- Top of Tolsford Hill. Looking south towards France, over Folkestone and the sea and east towards Romney marsh.
- Court Lodge Green (Bumpy

Field). Views of the valley. Also good for sunsets.

- Where Brady Road crosses Woodland Road, view of the valley, especially good at sunset.
- Church Road Lyminge, view looking north towards the church tower.
- Tayne Field/Well Field, views of the Church.
- Tayne Field Views SW and W up to the ridge line.
- Canterbury Road (near New Lyminge Surgery), view SW/W up towards the ridge line, and Rectory.
- Field end of North Lyminge Lane, view eastward towards the hills.
- View of church from the alley, Brady Road to Beddingfield Road.
- Centre of Etchinghill, toward village sign taking in old cottages and pub (conservation area).
- St Mary's Field. View looking towards Tolsford Hill.
- Top of Teddars Leas Road View looking towards the sea.
- Newbarn corner. Looking over the golf course towards the Ridge line.
- Farthing Common, over the valley towards the sea.
- View of Church from Canterbury Road, following course of the Nailbourne.

Neighbourhood Plan: Biodiversity & Wildlife Corridors Policy

For this policy we need to create a list of the natural features of the landscape that are particularly important in the area. We will try to give more details next month but in the meantime please feel free to send any ideas to tony.ing@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk



Minimise Pain

Optimise Mobility

Enhance Your Health

22

Welcome to AK Healthcare – Your Trusted Osteopathic Clinic in Lyminge.

Since 2011, Adam and Katie have been dedicated to bringing relief and mobility to the Elham Valley community. At AK Healthcare, we believe in a holistic approach to health, focusing on treating the whole person, not just the symptoms. Our experienced Osteopaths use gentle and effective techniques to address a variety of conditions, from back pain and sports injuries to arthritic pain and beyond. Our commitment is to help you achieve optimal health and well-being in a warm, welcoming environment. Visit us today and experience the difference that personalized care can make for you. Your path to a healthier life starts here!

Contact us to book your appointment today!

www.AKHealthcare.org.uk

07904311554

Or scan the QR code below:



The Lyminge Association

We're here to support and develop our community!

CONTACTS:

Chair: Heather Dunford 07427 664084 [E heather.dunford@gmail.com](mailto:heather.dunford@gmail.com)

Minutes Secretary: Peter Barnes 01303 863737 or 07808 775302 [E pbarnes20@icloud.com](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com)

Treasurer: Janet Fry 01303 863177 [E janet@rhodesminnis.org.uk](mailto:janet@rhodesminnis.org.uk)

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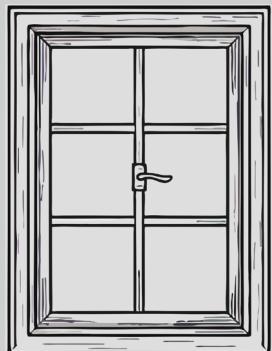
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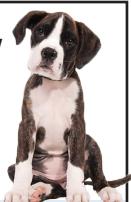


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The First Etching hill Christmas Pétanque Competition

The first Etchinghill Christmas pétanque competition took place in December 2011. The players were Etchinghill residents from St Mary's Drive and St Mary's Close.

Over the 14 years some residents have moved on, some of us have grown up and many grown old gracefully, maybe!

The weather has always been challenging but this years, cold and wet, proved to be very demanding. The teams now play under the names of The Drive Invitational team and the Close Invitational team. Players include residents from other parts of Etchinghill along with invited guests.

Due to the inclement weather the strong support and many players slowly drifted away due to the damp wet conditions. Enough players just managed to hang in to the end with the Close finally winning by 2 legs to one.

Congratulations to both teams for showing grit and determination in achieving a result and well done to the Close team on coming out on top. And anyway there is always next year.



The Big Fat Christmas Quiz

About 100 quizzers attended the Big Fat Christmas Quiz at the Etchinghill Village Hall on Saturday 6th December. The questions had been verified by Santa's little helpers therefore there were very few contested answers. Christmas crackers and mince pies were supplied to each table with further refreshments including the odd beverage brought by the participants.

The evening was an enjoyable night out and thanks must go to all the trustees and helpers along with all the players that made the event such a successful festive quiz.



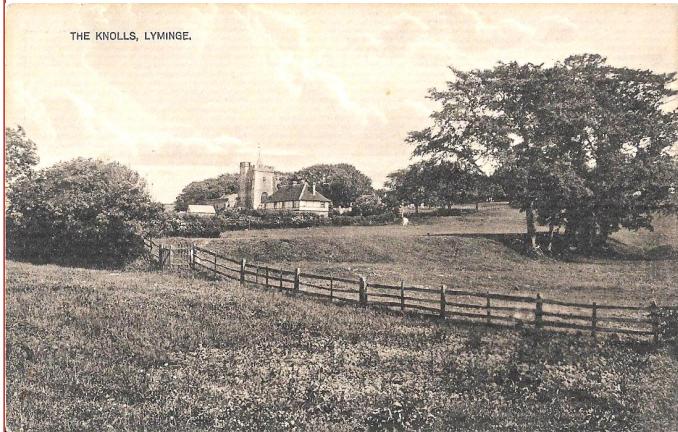
Out & About...

Do you have any photos of local events or groups in action? If so, can you please forward them along with a few words to pbarnes20@icloud.com



LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

Our monthly look at how Lyminge has changed over the years, with thanks to Lyminge Historical Society.



This view is taken by the turning to the Village Hall off Woodland Road. At the beginning of the 20th Century, like now, this field was properly called Court Lodge Green. However, then, it was popularly known as the Knolls, which is really just a variation on the name by which it is usually known today – the bumpy field. It is interesting that in the view above from about a hundred years ago, there is no sign of the ponds that we see today. This is curious because there appear to have been two ponds marked here on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map, and ponds can also

be found on this spot on the Tithe Map of 1837 and on the oldest map of Lyminge drawn in 1685. So the ponds here are a long-standing historical feature.

Court Lodge Green itself is the westernmost part of the precinct of the monastery that certainly existed in the area around the parish church by 700AD, and possibly earlier. Excavations at the bottom of the hill, in the foreground above, showed that this was an industrial area where iron was worked into tools by blacksmiths. Later in the period after the Norman Conquest, the Archbishops of Canterbury built a



palace that stretched from the churchyard into Court Lodge Green. The outline of part of this is marked on the path leading to the war memorial, and the humps and bumps in the field are remnants too. The last fragments of this palace complex survived as Court Lodge, which was also marked on the map of 1685, roughly half-way up the hill.

Today the field is protected for the benefit of the whole village as a village green, and is managed in accordance with a plan designed to encourage and promote wildlife and biodiversity.



In January, Lyminge Friends enjoyed a lovely lunch at the King's Arms, Elham