

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

JANUARY 2026

**Wishing the whole of our community
a very happy New Year, full of health and happiness**



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China
China

中國城



Chinese New Year



The Year of the Horse



Come and Celebrate 2026 with us

Tues. 17th & Weds. 18th February

Chinese New Year Celebration

Special 5 course meal

£39 per person

includes Lion Dance & and Fireworks

and on

14th Feb. Valentine's Day Special

£28 per person



To book your table please pop in
or phone 01303 863288 or 07539200804

Fireworks
around 9pm

Margaret Saunders' Meanderings

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

January

Dawn – huge white clouds to the east, like snow covered mountains, stand in front of the rising sun, which is providing a textured red background. It is indeed a shepherd's warning as the day proves cold and dull, with rain following.

Another dawn – flocks of birds, about twenty to thirty strong, move steadily northwards along the other side of the valley. Temperatures well below freezing at night make for heavy frosts and delicate patterns on vegetation and car windscreens. Sparrows emerge from the ivy clad wall of the house next door and fly straight into the beech hedge, where they begin the day's chatter. Central heating has largely replaced fires so steam instead of smoke rises from houses in the early morning, catching the moving air and giving a clear indication of the wind direction. On this particular day, after a clear



dawn and sky, rich patterns of clouds begin to move in from the south-west, the golden light of the early sun delicately colouring those that are to the south-east. But even with this

golden glow, the sky looks cold and hard echoing the frost covered landscape below.

We are clearly in a run of stunning sunrises. Behind the church the sky is a vibrant orange-red and grey clouds are rising in columns vertically from behind the hillside, echoing the wild fires in California, where they have been raging for the past weeks. It is a strange sight and one that I have never seen before. An early magpie flies past, identifiable by it's distinctive long tail, which comprises half its total length.

Several nights of frost have created wonderful patterns on windows and vegetation. Fallen Autumn leaves are always worth a closer look as rime forms around their edges and along the veins, creating wonderful pieces of art. Ice crystals have made delightful fern-like leaves on the glass of my garage door and I spend some time in the cold morning

air, admiring their complexity and beauty, not wanting the rising sun to melt them into obscurity. Moss mimics these frost patterns, bright green fronds reaching



forwards in the damp areas of woodland. Birds visit the bird feeder more frequently in these cold January days, trying to keep up their food

levels. Six long-tailed tits regularly visit, coming in a flurry together, feeding on the fat-balls, then all leaving at the same time, off to some other garden café where the menu might be slightly different. Today I cut back the leaves of my hellebores and before I had stepped back from the border, a robin had appeared, eager to feed on anything that I had unearthed that had survived the night's frost.

Walks on frozen muddy footpaths mean boots stay clean but deeper ruts can cause ankle twists. Walking back down Woodland Road late one afternoon, black ice is making the road very slippery so I keep to the very edge, where there is leaf litter which provides some grip. We are now more than a week into the New Year and the waxing gibbous moon (soon to be the Wolf moon when it is full) is riding high in the sky by four o'clock in the afternoon. Clear nights have enabled the moonshine to lay a silvery light over the land, even casting shadows around the time of the full moon.

By mid January Lyminge churchyard has clumps of snowdrops in full bud and on Brady Road, a clump is fully out. A friend who keeps bees tells me that he has seen a few honey bees leaving the hive on a sunny day, most likely on a search for water to soften the honey, rather than looking for nectar.

At midnight one clear night, the now waning gibbous moon looms large in the eastern sky glowing a warm and dusky soft orange as opposed to the usual cool silver. It is a clear chilly night, hovering around freezing. The blue-black velvety sky is full of stars, the constellations clearly visible with a haze of faint stars as a more distant backdrop. Bright stars twinkle and glimmer, creating a magical scene, a firmament admired and puzzled over by many for millennia.

Storm Herminia follows hard on the heels of Storm Éowyn at the end of the month, the latter carrying a red Met Office warning, meaning a threat to life. Here in the south-east we only experience strong blustery winds where leaves scurry about frantically and birds stay in sheltered spots, compared to the 100+ mph winds in the north and west, where widespread damage occurs. As January comes to an end we wait to see what February will bring – it is often the coldest month of the year



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
4th January	10.30am	Circuit Covenant service at St. Andrew's
11th January	10.15am	Valley Service with Rev. Malcolm Peach
18th January	10.00am	At the Parish Church for United Service
25th January	11.00am	United Service with Parish Church: Preacher: Rev. Malcolm Peach
1st February	11.00am	Mr David Songer (including Holy Communion)

RHODES MINNIS

Date	Time	Event
4th January	No service	Members will join others at St Andrews Cheriton for a Covenant Service
11th January	10.15am	Valley Service at Lyminge Rev Malcolm Peach
18th January	9.30am	Mr Tom Lewis
25th January	9.30am	A local arrangement

St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

Date	Location	Time	Event
Sunday 4th January	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am 4.00pm	WOW Service Evensong BCP
Sunday 11th January	Lyminge	8.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion CW2 Evensong BCP
Sunday 18th January <i>Week of Christian Unity</i>	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion CW1 with Lyminge Methodists Evening Holy Communion
Sunday 25th January	Lyminge	11.00am	Joint Family Praise in Methodist Church

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

Postling Church Services

Date	Time	Event
Sunday 4th January	8.30am	Breakfast Service
Sunday 11th January	9.30am	Holy Communion
Sunday 18th January	8.30am	Morning Service
Sunday 25th January	-	No service in Postling



Rector's Wonderings..

I wonder if you had any surprises last year?

The beginning of a New Year is often a time when we look over the past year, take stock and consider how we might make some improvement to our lives. New Year's resolutions become very popular.

For Christians it's a time for us to consider our gifts and talents, and what we can give to God and the church in terms of our service.

We are asked to think about our vocation (calling) like the magi, are you being called to something new?

There were a record number of baptisms in some benefice churches last year, including 3 adult baptisms - these were lovely surprises to all those concerned.

Encountering Jesus in the waters of our baptism, we are called to be children of God. It's something which doesn't leave us, no matter what happens to us in life.

You are never too old to come to Christ, please get in touch with your local church or priest if you want to explore your journey further. I would love to baptise even more adults this year!

Whether we would call ourselves Christians or not, the prayer of St Teresa of Avila (1515-1582) reminds us of our calling:

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to
do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses
all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*



LYMINGE COMMUNITY HUB

Last month we told you about the meeting we had with Jim Martin, leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council (FH&DC), who wants to turn the whole of the Jubilee Building in Everist Court (formerly the old Council building) into housing for older, single people.

We put forward our proposal for the use of the ground floor as a Community Centre to replace part of that lost when AgeUK left the village in February 2025, leaving the first floor available for housing. We also suggested that, with the existing flat roof, it would be possible to build a light-weight mansard roof on top, which would mean the building would have both 4 flats and a much-needed Community Hub.

Jim took away this proposal and came back on 10th December with his reply:

He said *"This would cost an additional £630,000. So effectively this would give us one less flat when compared*

with the proposed scheme and cost the Council £630,000 more. You can see my problem?" We would like to question these statements.

This building has been partially used as Community Centre since 1977 - 49 years, and the whole building has been in Community use for the last 17 years. Added to that, following our successful application in June 2025, it has now been designated as an ACV i.e. an Asset of Community Value.

For FHDC to be able to turn it to housing, they will have to make a planning application to change the use from Community Use to Housing. This is where we come in and we hope that we can look to the residents of Lyminge and the surrounding area, for your support. There needs to be a substantial number of objections to this application, which can be based on the above facts and also personal reasons for keeping the building in Community use.

As of 22nd December, no application had been lodged but there were 3 days left before Christmas for this to happen.

As soon as the application is validated, we will post this on Nextdoor and Facebook asking that as many objections as possible be sent in to FHDC. We will also put up some notices around the village.

Finally, to be able to question Jim Martin's figure of £630,000 to build a timber frame top floor of about 143 square metres, **we would need the services of a quantity surveyor. If there is anyone out there who could help with this task, working with the full plans we already have drawn up, we would be very grateful.**

If you are able to help, please contact Yvonne Freeman, Company Secretary on 07753 191542 or Peggy Bowling, Committee Member, on 07851 046436.

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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.

OLD SCHOOL PIZZA



PIZZAS

The Classics - Margherita £9

Fior di latte mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh basil, pecorino



Behind the bike sheds - Pepperoni £11

Fior di latte mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh basil, Hungarian smoked pepperoni, pecorino



Old School House - house special £13

Fior di latte mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh basil, prosciutto crudo, portobello mushrooms, rocket, garlic, pecorino



'Teacher's Pet' - Veggie £12

Fior di latte mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh basil, pecorino (vegie), capers, artichoke, olives, sun dried tomatoes, garlic, pesto (nut free)



Kiss chase- Nduja £12

Fior di latte mozzarella, tomatoes, fresh basil, pecorino, nduja, red onion





In Lyminge every Wednesday 5pm-7:30pm at Lyminge School.

Contact 07825701872 to pre order. Message from Monday onwards to pre order. Please pre order by 2pm on the day. Possible wait time for walk in orders.

www.oldschoolpizza.co.uk
Instagram: @oldschoolpizza25



OLDSCHOOLPIZZA25@GMAIL.COM
07825701872

OLD SCHOOL PIZZA

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.
10th Jan	10.30am	Children Craft Club	LL	03000413131
11th April	10.00am	Model Railway Exhibition	ELVH	07743 704547

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	LVH	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

^{**} Evry 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; **EVL:** 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; **RMC:** Rhodes Minnis Church;
RMCS: Rhodes Minnis Cat Sanctuary; **RR:** Rigden 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

LYMINGE COMMUNITY HUB

Further to our update in the November issue of The Lyminge Newsletter, we agreed the date of Tuesday, 11th November for our meeting with Councillor Jim Martin, Leader of Folkestone & Hythe District Council and his officers. Five members of the Lyminge Community Hub committee attended the meeting and we were pleased that Councillor Tania Gauder, Senior Caseworker for Sojan Joseph MP, Christopher Hespe, Kent County Councillor for the Elham Valley and Shaun Pottage, Chair of Lyminge Parish Council, were all in attendance.

6 Gillian Heywood, Chair of Lyminge Community Hub, gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining our proposals for creating a village hub using the ground floor of the Jubilee Building at Everist Court. As detailed in our November update, this would provide us with sufficient space to have a commercial kitchen in which we could prepare breakfasts, light lunches and refreshments throughout the day from Monday to Friday, create a thrift shop and still have a good sized meeting room for local clubs and other groups to meet in and, hopefully, a monthly repair café.

During the discussions which followed, Councillor Martin emphasised again the need for social housing in the form of one-bedroom flats so that he can release some larger houses for families. We pointed out that whilst we fully appreciate the need for more social housing, Lyminge already has a good level of social housing provision for single people and that not everyone wants to

move to a rural location, where social isolation is much more prevalent than in urban areas.

The Jubilee Building (also referred to as Jubilee House) is located at Everist Court in Lyminge. The building was formerly used as a community day centre by Age UK, but it has been listed as an asset of community value since 17 June 2025 following a successful nomination by the Lyminge Community Hub, Community Interest Company (C.I.C.). If a planning application is put forward by the Council to change the whole building into flats, there would need to be a change of use from Community to Housing and this is something we will need to oppose if we are to secure use of the ground floor for our Community Hub. If deemed necessary, we would organise a further public meeting and would be looking to the residents of Lyminge for your support in objecting to this change of use.

Proposals for the possible installation of a Mansard roof on the Jubilee building were also discussed, as this would create provision for a third floor to the building and space for two additional apartments thus providing a total of five, which Councillor Martin is hoping to achieve. If this option works, it would mean that the Council would secure additional single-person accommodation and the residents of Lyminge and the surrounding villages would have a much-needed social space for all ages once again using the ground floor of the building.

Letter to the Editor

Lost and Found

Returning home one afternoon towards the end of November, we found a dog's lead — red with a white stripe spiralling round it — lying in the lane outside our house. We hung it round the fencing by the gate to our front garden for its owner to reclaim it. And there it hangs, still.

So, if the dog-walker who has lost a lead would like to recover it, we live at 4, Westfield Lane, Etchinghill. Please help yourself!

JJ and EM Webb

CHILDREN CRAFT CLUB LYMINGE LIBRARY

A children's craft club offering structured, fun sessions for kids to learn & create using various art materials, boosting creativity, motor skills, & confidence.

The free children craft club is on

Saturdays

Starting 10th January

10.30 - 11.30am

Contact:

Anne-Michele.Patart@kent.gov.uk

03000413131

lymingelibrary@kent.gov.uk



Lyminge Newsletter

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Copy deadline for next edition - 18 January 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

Etchinghill update

– January 2026

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)

For enquiries, please call - 07739 998262

Website: www.etchinghill.info  Etchinghill Residents

FILM NIGHT - ETCHINGHILL

VILLAGE HALL – Monday 19th

January – doors open 7pm for a

7.30 start – 'The Salt Path' 2024

(12a). Run time : 1hr 51 mins.

Drama starring Gillian Anderson and Jason Isaacs. Based on the book with the same title, the film tells the inspiring story of Raynor and Moth Winn's 630 mile trek along the beautiful and rugged South West coastline. After being forcibly removed from their home they make the decision to walk, seeking solace and a sense of acceptance in nature. 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.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING-UP

MERIDEN PARK – An excellent turn out for the ERA's annual Christmas tree lighting-up event, with carol singing accompanied by the ever excellent Shepway Brass Academy, and refreshments at the village hall afterwards. Thank you to all our volunteers who made the afternoon go so smoothly. (See pictures on P36).

ERA AGM – at the Annual General Meeting held on 7th December, following the usual discussions, committee members and local residents reluctantly accepted the immediate retirement of Dave McCombe (Chair) and Geraldine McCombe (Treasurer) from the committee. After further deliberation, the following volunteers were elected to join: Victoria Couper-Samways (Chair) Dennis Charman (Treasurer) Ann Baker (Secretary) Ann Brunger (Committee Member) The new committee will meet in early January and will share further

updates then. We look forward to continuing to support the community.

FINALLY – A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR RESIDENTS.

ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL

(Charity 302736)

Chairman: John White

 Etchinghill Village Hall Kent

Bookings:

Anna Allan 07514 758936

Email: d.allan142@btinternet.com

The Etchinghill Village Hall Trustees would like to thank everyone that has supported the hall throughout 2025. It has been a very successful year that has included the building of the extension and the fitting out of the stage. The hall is regularly booked by numerous groups plus most weekends for family parties. Without this support the Hall could not continue. So thank you and best wishes for 2026.

ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL ACTIVITIES

ART CLASSES: Barratt Art – Fridays 9.15-12.15 contact Nikki 07870 494644
Chromatic Greys Art – Mondays 9.30 – 13.30 contact Pat 07783 575802 (Full)
Lyminge Art Morning Group – Thursdays 10.00 – 13.00 contact Linda 07925 545950

BRIDGE CLUB – Tuesdays 19.00 – 22.00 contact Rosemary 01303 265315 / 07790 160476 email rosemary@lewtybarn.co.uk

DANCING Ballroom – Thursdays 19.30 – 21.30 contact Lynn 07967 979610 email lynn.chapman0127@btinternet.com

PICKLEBALL: Etchinghill Pickleball – Tuesdays between 13.45 – 16.45 contact Sue 07821 385072

PILATES: *Phillips Pilates* – Tuesdays 11.45 – 12.45 contact Maxine 07834 839801
Rawlins Pilates – Mondays 17.15 – 18.15 contact Katherine 07951 698008

QUILTING:

Ethelburga Quilters – monthly on a Saturday all day contact Liz 07714 691673

ETCHINGHILL TABLE TENNIS CLUB:

Etchinghill Table Tennis Club – Fridays 19.00 – 22.00 contact Gordon 07863 327859

TAICHI QIGONG:

Reflexology Hyslop – Tuesdays 9.30 -10.30 contact Kelly 07402 203239

TODDLER & BABY GROUP:

Playtime – Wednesdays 10.30 – 11.30 contact Ruth 07817 777975

Call or pop in to see what goes on and to join this January.

News contact: Karen Hickman – 07521 372477, email: kdhickman@me.com



District Councillors' update

– January 2026

Government Re-organisation – A lot of time has been spent on considering Local Government Re-organisation. There was no overall consensus of the 14 Council leaders. At Folkestone & Hythe District Council, each Councillor was given the opportunity to vote on their preferred model and the result was overwhelmingly in favour of 3a - which was then ratified by Cabinet and taken forward by the Leader. Model 3a is the three unitary option consisting of Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale in the north; Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west and Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe in the east. Ashford on the other hand put forward 4d as their preferred option. This would reorganise Kent and Medway into four new unitary councils but would divide Folkestone & Hythe into two. Other Kent Councils voted for different Models and these submissions were made to the Minister on 28 November. It will be Spring before we get a decision on how Kent and Medway will be organised.

Otterpool Park - I continue to question the Leader on Otterpool Park. We now understand there is another collaboration agreement with Homes England on setting up a joint planning group to finalise the reserve matters that are still outstanding. This apparently runs until December 2026 so we will be watching closely!

Rural Prosperity Fund – in the recent round of allocations, in our Ward the application from Wild & Wise Collectives at Bodsham to provide equipment to allow Kombucha business to upscale was successful. The fund is still open to expressions of interest but you will need to act fast as all projects must be completed and grants paid out by the end of March 2026.

Napier Barracks – The District Council has just been advised that all asylum seekers accommodated at Napier Barracks have now been moved on. The Barracks will now be handed back to the Ministry of Defence who will pass it on to the Developers.

If there is an issue you would like more information on do please let me know.

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Successful New Year.

Contact:

jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

I hope you all had a happy festive season and New Year.

Since Southern Water's Eastern Treatment Works released up to 10 tonnes of plastic beads into the sea, F&HDC have been closely monitoring the beaches along the coastline. Currently only a small quantity of beads has been found. The matter was raised at a recent meeting with town and parish councils where there was a presentation by

Southern Water and the Environment Agency. On an unrelated issue, the beaches at Dymchurch and Greatstone were given a poor bathing water quality rating and a 'No Swim' notice has been issued by the Environment Agency for these beaches.

A blueprint for a net zero district by 2041 has been unanimously backed by the council's cabinet. The district-wide carbon plan sets out actions for the council, businesses, residents and groups to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change and achieve a more sustainable and climate-resilient future. The plan is due to be launched at an event in January 2026.

The Edwardian section of the Folca building in Folkestone has gone on the market. The space in the former Debenhams store is being marketed as suitable for a variety of uses. Great progress has been made with the Integrated Care Board to deliver the Health Centre to Folca 2. The council bought the Folca building in May 2020 and is continuing with plans to regenerate the Art Deco part facing Sandgate Road.

Ideas for topics to be discussed by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are being welcomed.

To put forward suggestions visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/democracy/council-scrutiny and complete the online form or write to Committee Services at the Civic Centre before 3pm on Monday 26 January 2026.

The council's magazine for residents, District Today, has returned with an Autumn/Winter 2025 edition. The free 20-page magazine has been delivered to all households across the district. The content includes a look back on 2025, winter walk and cycling suggestions and key Christmas dates including household recycling and waste collections.

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

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Film Night

MONDAY 19th January

"The Salt Path"

12 (2024) - Run Time: 1hrs 51mins

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



2025 has been another remarkable year at The Fifth Trust. We are deeply grateful to our students, dedicated staff, community and generous supporters who help us fulfil our mission of empowering adults with learning disabilities. Your continued commitment makes such a difference.

We are thrilled to announce the fantastic success of our recent Big Give Christmas Challenge campaign, which saw us raise an incredible £11,415.69. With a fully accessible Tipi and new Outdoor Active hub, we can provide our students with the chance to learn bushcraft, fire-making, carving, woodland management and so much more. These funds will go a long way in providing a space where students can enhance their skills and boost their self-confidence.

From all of us here, we hope everyone enjoys a happy and healthy new year!

THE TOWER THEATRE
FOLKESTONE

AFHODS
THE FOLKESTONE THEATRE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY LTD

<p>Mr Sleepybum's DREAM MACHINE A Kid's Comedy Show Sat 7 February - 11am & 2pm</p>	<p>Agatha Christie The Mirror CRACK'D A New Adaptation by Rachel Wagstaff Thursday 12th - Sunday 15th March (Matinees on Saturday & Sunday) Seats From £16.00</p>	<p>IRONING BOARD Sat 7 March - 7.30pm</p>
<p>HAPPYBOX Fri 13 February - 7.30pm</p>	<p>Tom Stockwell psychic medium Mon 16 March - 7.30pm</p>	<p>Flamenco Express Fri 20 March - 7.30pm</p>
<p>THE CINEMA BUBBLE SHOW Mon 16 February - 1pm & 3pm</p>	<p>Allan Susan CHICKEN MAN You're in for a GLORIOUS GOOD TIME WEDNESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 7.30PM</p>	<p>SERIOUSLY COLLINS Sat 21 March - 7.30pm</p>
<p>FOREVER CLAPTON Fri 27 February - 7.30pm</p>	<p>NOISES by Michael Frayn 14th - 16th May</p>	<p>RHINSTONE COWBOY Sat 28 March - 7.30pm</p>

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

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

A Senior Moment

An elderly woman
quick to complain -
telephones the
village shop again.

She says tersely
'This is Mrs Burnet!
My Sunday paper
hasn't arrived yet.'

A tired voice explains.
'Today is Saturday all day -
you'll get your Sunday paper
tomorrow, in the usual way.'

'Oh, silly me.' she cries.
'My mistake Mr Patel.
That explains why the
holy church was empty as well.'

Written by: JT Sandgate Creative Circle
Tel - 07435 580028

Cody's Dog Tales
Dog Walking/Pet Services

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)




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Please contact us for
further information

Martine: 07722 589910
Paul: 07951 628173

postlingglassblowing@gmail.com

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 Postling Glassblowing

Your Local Pharmacy



- NHS & Private Prescriptions
- Travel and Speciality
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- Weight Loss Clinic
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- NHS Flu & Covid Vaccinations
- Free Blood Pressure Checks
- Pharmacy First Service
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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
TEL:
01303 862425

EMAIL:
lymingeinformed@gmail.com

Or come in to the store:
21 Station Road, Lyminge
Folkestone CT18 8HQ

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CHILDREN CRAFT CLUB - LYMINGE LIBRARY - 10TH JANUARY - SEE P 6



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Your local, experienced, interior specialists,
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Funded by the National Lottery, everyone is welcome – no matter your experience!

FREE and booking is not required.
For further information call us on 01303 269602

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

We are back every Wednesday of the month from
14th, 21st and 28th January 2026 :
11:15AM – 12:15PM
at the Methodist Church.

The Methodist Church, Church Rd,
Lyminge, CT18 8JA



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



On behalf of the Royal British Legion, I wish to
thank everyone who supported the
2025 Poppy Appeal.

Our district total so far is an amazing

£15,769.87

Thank you to everyone – house-to-house
collectors, shops and businesses, Lyminge CE
Primary School, Lyminge Parish Council, St Mary
and St Ethelburga Church, Lyminge Methodist
Church and most particularly, everyone who gave
so generously.

Susan Foster, Poppy Appeal Organiser,
Elham Valley District

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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)

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.
© Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2025.



Winter

Winter wild, sharp and fierce
Into my bones the wind does pierce
Wet feet rub, toes go numb
Then of course the chilblains come
Red and itchy they will be
Raw and dry they'll bleed you'll see
Unable to sleep as legs move and kick
Who designs boots with no thick
Fur, essential for the vessels you know
To keep them open when the wind doth blow
Make them close and inflamed they'll be
Then the chilblains will punish thee
Around a puddle the water seeps
Into my socks the chilblains creep
No creams or lotions will work this day
And scratching takes not the pain away.



Margaret Heale
Lyminge Poetry Group

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

MUSIC ON A FRIDAY

...would like to thank all of those people who braved the dreadful weather on the evening of 5th December to come to our Christmas Concert. A big thank also to you and to all the performers and helpers who made the evening a success. We raised over £200 for the designated charities.
THANK YOU ALL so very, very much.

Local Village Taxi

For all your travel arrangements

Contact Richard

07970 12 12 12

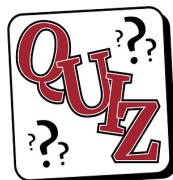


Tuesday 20th January 2026

7:15pm for 7:30pm

The Tayne Centre

**Free soft drinks and nibbles
plus a quiz following the AGM**



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 AND ELHAM VALLEY STROKE SUPPORT

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

**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

**Wishing everyone a very
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

JANUARY DATES

5th and 19th

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

PARISH CHURCH EXPLORER APP

On-line tours of St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge are now live on the Church Explorer app. There is a tour of the inside of the church, with another covering the churchyard. Both are accessible off the initial landing page. The churchyard tour starts at the north gate and takes you initially up to the area of the porch at Stops 3 and 4. At this point, you can choose to enter the church and start the inside tour or go the end of the churchyard tour at the north door and then go inside to start the inside tour.

A laminated poster with links for downloading the app both from Appstore and from Google Playstore can be found on the welcome table and on the archaeological display in the north aisle.

Have you tried our self-guided tour?

1. Download the FREE ChurchExplorer app
2. Locate our church:
 - a. on the Map, or
 - b. use the Search feature to find Lyminge

To learn more about the ChurchExplorer app visit churchexplorer.co.uk



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Hythe area**

Contact Ellen for more information or to book
Call: 07740 857109
Email: ejgarrard2712@gmail.com
Visit: www.ellengarrard.co.uk



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Hythe Aqua Swimming Club has vacancies for potential competitive swimmers Level 7 and above.

Join a Club with a nationally accredited swim programme.

Lessons/Coaching sessions are held on
Tuesday & Thursday evenings at Hythe Pool.

We also welcome adult length swimmers to our Adult training
on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 9.00pm

To book your place

Email hytheaqua@btinternet.com or check out our website
www.hytheaqua.org.uk or Facebook

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

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MOUNT PLEASANT CLOSE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

**Thank you
yet again for
your generous
donations.**

**This Christmas we
have raised **£4100**,
a credit to our
caring community**

None of this would
be possible without
the generosity and
continued support
of the village.

So, thank you very
much in advance.

The charities
being supported are:
**The British Heart
Foundation, MS Society,
Cancer Research UK,
Prostate Cancer,
Pilgrims Hospice Ashford
and
Maya Nash in Hythe.**



From
Christopher Hespe,
Kent County
Councillor for Elham
Valley

Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Launched

DEFRA appointed KCC to lead in the production and management of the Strategy in 2023. The Strategy has been launched and sets out priorities for nature recovery and, through an interactive mapping portal, identifies actions and locations where the greatest contribution can be made. It is designed to help any organisation or individual take forward nature recovery in their area by providing the information and advice needed. Key priorities include tree planting to enhance air quality and protecting Kent's coastline with measures such as sea-grass restoration, which has created habitats for seahorses and wintering Brent Geese.

Committee Restructuring

In order to reduce bureaucracy, duplication and costs, KCC is reducing its number of committees. The administration believes there are too many meetings, taking valuable time of Members and Officers. The changes to the committees will improve efficiency and make financial savings, whilst ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. Further savings from committees will be found in forthcoming months as efforts to reduce bureaucracy continue.

Spatial Planning

In the government's English Devolution White Paper of December 2024, it set out the intention to introduce a new duty for all areas, regardless of the pace of devolution or local government reorganisation, to prepare a Spatial Development Strategy. This would transform the delivery of housing and economic growth, coordinating with the necessary infrastructure provision relating to transport, energy and water. From Spring 2026, the preparation of a Kent and Medway Spatial Development Strategy will be led by a new Strategic Planning Board. This will provide the strategic planning framework that has been missing in Kent since the demise of County Structure Plans in 2011, enabling development prioritisation and investment in the County.

Playground Festival

A new festival designed to encourage play, imagination and creativity is launching in Kent in 2026, taking place between 22 and 31 May. The Playground Festival has been created for babies, young children and their families, involving immersive installations, workshops and playground sessions at 20 venues. There will be 150 events showcasing some of the most inspiring national and international work created

for young audiences. Tickets can be booked via playgroundkent.co.uk/playground-festival

New Highways Contract

KCC has signed a new long-term contract with Ringway to maintain and improve Kent's roads, worth £50 million.

The new contract will mean that residents will benefit from faster, more efficient repairs and maintenance, including potholes and drainage issues. The contract covers gritting, maintaining bridges and responding to emergencies. A key benefit of the new contract is that value for money for Kent taxpayers is sought, as the contract is designed to ensure efficiency, be transparent and provide visible results that Kent residents will see.

Moving Traffic Offences

KCC is inviting residents, businesses and road users to share their views on proposals to enforce moving traffic offences at certain key locations across the County. Yellow box junctions will be enforced via camera at one location in each of Ashford, Canterbury and Dover, in addition to a number in Maidstone. Comments should be sent to www.kent.gov.uk/mteconsultations

Finally, I would like to wish all residents of Elham Valley a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Christopher Hespe

Kent County Councillor for Elham Valley

Antiquarian Books Wanted

[no paperbacks or annuals please]

Call Jonathan on

07545 043065 or

email: louis88books@gmail.com

Louis88Books



Lyminge Friends

The Committee of Lyminge Friends would like to wish all our members and their families a very Happy New Year.

Our Christmas Lunch held on 10 December was extremely successful and enjoyed by everyone. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the local businesses who supported our raffle.

There is no meeting in January so 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**

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.

Logs For Sale

**Net bag £10 collected
or
£12 delivered
(within 5 mile radius)**

**Bridge Farm,
Lyminge
Telephone:
07562149567
and ask for Geoff**

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

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Dementia Services

We run free social events to support people living with dementia, helping them stay confident and independent. Everyone is welcome to join us for a cuppa, a chat, and friendly company. We also provide free information and advice, as well as charged cognitive sessions and day care. To talk to us about dementia support, please contact our Dementia Services Team Leader on 01303 269602 or email dementialead@ageukhla.org.uk



MONDAY	*Young at Heart Memory Café	The Pheasant, Trinity Road, Ashford, TN25 4BY Brickfields, Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone, CT19 4AP	Monday 5 th January, 12:30pm - 2:30pm Monday 26 th January, 10:00am - 12:00pm
TUESDAY	*Social Afternoon (with a meal) Memory Café	The Royal Norfolk Hotel, 7 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, CT20 3BD Stade Court Hotel, Stade Street, West Parade, Hythe, CT21 6DT	Tuesday 13 th January, 1:30pm - 3:30pm *note time change* Tuesday 20 th January, 1:30pm - 3:30pm
	*Social Evening (with a meal)	The New Chimneys, Loudon Way, Ashford, TN23 3JJ	Tuesday 27 th January, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
WEDNESDAY	*Wonkies Dementia Chorus	Skuba Bar Old Bistro, 2 Langhorne Gardens, Folkestone, CT20 2EA Hythe Cricket and Squash Club, Ladies Walk, Hythe, CT21 6AX	Wednesday 7 th January, 10:30am - 12:00pm Weekly, 2:00pm - 3:30pm *only on 7 th , 14 th , 28 th
THURSDAY	Carer's Support Circle Memory Café Hythe Walking Group	Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF Etchinghill Golf Club, Canterbury Road, Etchinghill, Folkestone, CT18 8FA Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD	No January group- back in February Thursday 8 th January, 1:30pm-3:30pm Thursday 15 th January, 10am-11am
FRIDAY	Drop-In Clinic Memory Café Ashford Walking Group Memory Café Lunch Club	Charing Surgery, Hither Field, Charing, Ashford, TN27 0AW Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD Harper's Café, Victoria Park, Jemmett Road, Ashford, TN23 4AD Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD *booking essential	Friday 2 nd January, 12:00pm - 2:00pm Friday 2 nd January, 1:30pm-3:30pm Friday 9 th January, 10am-11am Friday 16 th January, 1:30pm-3:30pm Friday 23 rd January, 12:15pm-1:15pm

*For those diagnosed with Dementia at an early age

To find out about any of the above activities or events please contact Lauren Povey on: 07379 646426, alternatively email: demo@ageukhla.org.uk

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

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/hythelymingeashford/

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.

Editor: pbarnes20@icloud.com | Tel: 07808 775302



Lyminge Historical Society

We are taking our normal winter break in January and February.

In the meantime, why not check out our latest project in partnership with the Parish Church



FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Society will resume monthly meetings with:

3 March 2026: The Defense of Kent since 1900 – Dr Andrew Richardson
7 April 2026: An American Civil War Veteran in Folkestone – Gina Costin

From our MP...



I wish everyone in Lyminge and the surrounding villages a very Happy New Year and the very best for 2026 – I look forward to seeing what it has in store for us all as we move forward together as a community.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with me or reached out to my office over the past year. I hope to speak with many more of you in 2026.

If you require any assistance, please contact my office on:

01233 515107 or sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk

Best wishes,

Sojan

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 -

Monday - Thursday

Lunch 12-3pm

Dinner 5.30-8.30pm

Friday & Saturday -

Lunch 12-3pm

Dinner 5.30-9pm

Sunday

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 f @thoughtfulfoodgroup

Next **Thoughtful Food** meeting, **7.30pm MONDAY 26th January**, at The Coach & Horses.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that some of your new year resolutions may be food related!

In 2026 we will be focusing on Local Food heroes who have a passion for producing nutritious food whilst being custodians of the land. Sarah and Martin Mackey run Ripple Farm Organics, supplying veg boxes, mainly to East Kent but their reach extends to Ashford, Whitstable and Faversham. They also sell their produce at Farmers Markets.

They manage three sites in the idyllic setting of Wye, (Martin says he wouldn't risk living anywhere else! Despite his roots being in Ireland he loves it) One site is an extraordinary round walled garden that used to be part of a Victorian Manor house, one is the hub of the business where the boxes are packed, part of the Ripple estate. When Wye College closed in 2009, Sarah and Martin had the opportunity to rent 100 acres. This was slightly daunting but they decided they had to go for it. Nearly 20 years on they have not looked back. This is their third site and produces not just crops for the veg boxes but for wholesale to the Better Food Shed, <https://growingcommunities.org/better-food-shed> a London based company, that sells veg grown organically, distributing this to shops and restaurants in a sustainable way using electric vehicles.

Meeting Sarah and Martin on a rather damp, cold December day I was surprised at the variety of veg and salads being picked to go into the veg boxes. Leeks, Radicchio, Ca-volo Nero and Kale. Potatoes, onions, Celery and beetroot were piled up in the barn. Some salad crops like rocket were just about

hanging on under fleece outside and some were being brought on ready for planting in greenhouses. Mustard leaf and claytonia, known as miner's lettuce were almost



ready to go outside. This is a really hardy crop, it has a spinach like, mild, sweet flavour and is rich in vitamin c, so great for winter.

Both Sarah and Martin have an obvious passion for what they do. Sarah says she has always wanted to produce what people need, highly nutritious food that is grown to enhance rather than damage the land leaving it healthy for future generations.

Martin's tips for growing are to know your soil and just keep going, don't give up if you have a bad crop, look at what is happening and learn. He doesn't grow many cauliflowers as they need too much water, difficult to



maintain on a chalk base soil and he hates growing runner beans but will persevere with carrots as he loves them. The secret to good carrots is dual sowing and lots of weeding.

Over 200 veg boxes a week go out of the sheds in the most sustainable way possible, locally they are delivered by bicycle and trailer, further afield they are dropped off in one or two hubs per village where they can be collected. Currently, Lyminge has a delivery every Thursday to Dog Kennel Lane. You can purchase a small, medium or large box. They are extremely good value and such good quality.

OK - you may have to wash a bit of dirt off but you will be rewarded in flavour.

Getting a veg box would be one way to practise permaculture, Buying and eating produce that is grown locally with sustainability in mind.

Moroccan chick pea, Squash and Cavolo Nero stew

- 4 tomatoes halved
- 5 tbsp olive oil
- 250g butternut squash peeled and chopped into large chunks
- 1 tbsp thyme leaves
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 1 onion sliced
- 2 x 400g cans chickpeas, drained
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 tbsp ground cumin
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 tbsp harissa
- 1l vegetable stock
- 100g feta crumbled
- 1 lemon zested, cut into wedges
- 2 tsp fennel seeds
- 1 tsp ground coriander
- 200g cavolo nero, shredded
- handful fresh coriander leaves, to serve

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Put the tomatoes on a baking sheet lined with baking parchment for 20 minutes or.....

Continued on Page 22.



LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

The following meetings all take place at: Lyminge Village Hall

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

6 January - 18.30

PLANNING AND LICENSING -

6 January - 19.30

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS -

13 January - 17.30

FINANCE AND ADMIN

13 January - 19.30

FULL COUNCIL -

20 January - 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:

NHP: 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.

Welcome to 2026!

We have been working hard to get many things done to help improve our communities.

1. Funding for 3 new benches has been approved by Lyminge Parish Council for Meriden Park, Palm Tree Way and Mount Pleasant.

2. Dog Bone Etchinghill, St Mary's Close. Upgrade of road markings which have been outstanding for some time were repainted with dragon's teeth in w/c 1 December 2025.

3. Toddlers swing (below) on Tayne Field repaired. Reported broken on Wednesday 3 December and by Saturday 6 December it was removed, repainted, and put back in place.



We've been made aware that fireworks have been set off in Tayne Field, with the remains disposed of in the bins. As many children use these places, this could be unsafe. We kindly ask that fireworks are not used in Tayne Field, Court Lodge (Bumpy Field) and Well Field.

www.lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

mobile: 07999 403948

clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk



LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

*For Lyminge, Etchinghill and
Rhodes Minnis*



Who is Sandra Harrison?

I have lived in Kent all my life, and since 2021 my home has been in Lyminge. I love this area and enjoy watching the countryside change with the seasons, while still being within easy reach of the local towns and Canterbury.

Before retiring six years ago, I had a full and varied career. My background was first in pharmaceuticals, followed by 30 years in teaching. I taught junior-age children and, over the years, took on roles of responsibility, eventually becoming the acting head of a split-site school. I am a good listener, calm in a crisis, and able to work both independently and as part of a team. I also have a good sense of humour, which is often very helpful in the day-to-day work of the council.

My role on Lyminge Parish Council is Chair of Finance, and I am committed to helping the Council deliver good value for money in its services. I am always happy to hear suggestions on how we can improve parishioners' experiences in the area. And don't forget—we welcome applications for grants. Only last month, we funded a second VE statue and new football nets for Etchinghill.

www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

debbie.capon@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

mob: 07999 403948

Handyman: fred@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

neighbourhoodplan@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk



The Neighbourhood Plan: - Local Green Spaces Consultation with Updated QR Code

Neighbourhood Plan-Local Green Spaces Consultation
- updated QR code! Apologies that our previous QR
code didn't work and so here is a new one!

Below is a summary of the information about
potential Local Green Spaces, gathered at the various
Neighbourhood Plan community meetings that have
been held across the Parish.

Would you please have a look; we need you to help
us to gather facts about the mentioned localities e.g.
owners of land, any wildlife, why is it special to you
and the community. Also please let us know if any



areas have been missed and
could be added to this list. We
are also looking for photographs
to illustrate the green spaces
and views in the area. Please
send feedback to the Parish
Council ([barbara.winham@](mailto:barbara.winham@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk)
lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk) or

through a Google form using the QR Code alongside
or on this link: <https://forms.gle/PGS3LkuWaV3UDjaJ8>
Please note that a "Local Green Space" in this context
is a special designation that applies to certain green
spaces within a community that safeguards them
against inappropriate development, effectively
bringing them up to the same level as Green Belt
in planning terms. To be designated, the space in
question needs to meet strict criteria as set out in
national policy. Potential green spaces need to be truly
and "demonstrably" special to the community under at
least one of five specific categories.

We have made a start at assigning these categories
to each of the sites on the current list, using the
first letter of the category we think for which they
are demonstrably special - R: Recreational Value; H:
Historic Value; W: Wildlife Value; T: Tranquillity Value; B:
Beauty Value.

ETCHINGHILL	
St Mary's Field	R, H
Green Space around Village Hall	R, H, T, B
Meriden Park Green Space	R, T
Harry's Wood	W, R?, T
Former Cricket Pitch	? - Remove?
Etchinghill Golf Course	R
Green Space (top Tedders Leas)	?

LYMINGE	
Court Lodge Green (Bumpy Field)	W, H, R, T, B
Tayne Field	H, R, B, W?
Well Field	W, R, H, B
Lyminge Churchyard	H, T, W, B
Jubilee Field	R
Sibton Park Cricket Ground	R, B?
Mount Pleasant Green Space	R, T
Ethelburga Drive Green Space	R, T
Palm Tree Way Green Space	R, T
Green space by Age UK / Greenbanks / Station Rd	R, T, H?
Ethelburga Grove	R, W, H
Rectory Field (at end of Rectory Lane)	R, W?- maybe remove?
Water Meadow Field (North Lyminge Lane)	R, W?- maybe remove?
Lyminge West Top Field (on way to Brady Hill)	R, B, W?
Brady Hill	W, R, B
Field opp Sibton Park	R, B, W?
Woods (Top of Brady Road)	W – but no access
Allotments (Methodist Church)	R

RHODES MINNIS	
Recreation Ground / Village Green	R, T, H, W?
Allotment Field	H
Allotments	R
West Wood (Lyminge Forest)	R, W, T, B, H?



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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)
- Committee Members:** Peter Barnes (deputy chair), Marian Chubb, Richard Chubb, Stephen Guyatt, Gillian Heywood, Dennis Huntley, Robin Mackonochie, Derek Smith, Penny Stephens, Bernie Wood, Martin Wood
- Newsletter:** Peter Barnes 01303 863737 or 07808 775302 [E pbarnes20@icloud.com](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com)

Please contact the Chair or Treasurer if you need any financial support for your charity.

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Thoughtful Food

Moroccan chick pea, Squash and Cavolo Nero stew (contd from P 17).

....until the vegetables begin to soften (but not brown).

Meanwhile, pour 2 tbsp oil into a large saucepan and add the squash, thyme, garlic and onion. Season generously and cook on a low heat for 15 mins

Add the tomatoes, chickpeas, bay, ground spices and harissa. Season to taste and pour in the stock. Bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and simmer for 30-35 mins until the liquid has reduced.

Put the feta in a small bowl and add the remaining olive oil and the lemon zest. Mix well and set aside.

Toast the fennel seeds in a frying pan for 1 min, then lightly crush with a pestle and mortar, or in a bowl with the back of a rolling pin.

Add the ground coriander and cavolo nero to the stew and cook for 2 mins. Put the stew in a bowl and top with a scoop of feta, a sprinkling of coriander leaves and fennel seeds, and some seasoning. Serve with lemon wedges on the side.



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Wesley Room Seating	Max 15	£11 per hour

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Tuesday	10am - 1pm, 2pm-5pm
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Saturday	9am - 1pm

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CHARITY NO.800345

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Mick & Dorothy Athow: 01303 862616
Email: booking-rmvh@outlook.com



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Rates for Advertising in the Lyminge Newsletter

In the mists of time (2012??), we increased the charges to advertisers using the classified ad space in the Lyminge Newsletter for businesses from £9 to £9.50 per month or £95 per annum and from £1.50 to £3 (£30pa) for charities.

With time and the increasing requests for larger advertising, these charges have changed in line with these charges. However, more recently, we have seen an increase in our circulation list from 1650 copies to 1750 to include the new Pentland Homes estate and requests for further copies from China China.

In addition, we have absorbed any increased printing costs over the years, particularly when we switched to a commercial printer and yet we maintained our margins, continuing to support grant requests, donations and funding individual events. (See P 6). This year our revenue for the newsletter fell slightly from £12470 to £11463 (-8%).

The Lyminge Association committee has therefore accepted the recommendation that our fees increase by 4% (approx). The new rates per month from 1st November are as follows:

		Charities	Businesses
190 x 105mm	Half front page	£45	£50
190 x 270mm	Whole internal page	£25	£50
190 x 130mm	Half page	£12.50	£25
90 x 125mm	Quarter page	£7.50	£15
90 x 38mm	Classified Ads	£5	£10

Rates for an annual advert are calculated using the monthly rate, times ten (two months free). E.g. for a quarter page business ad, one month costs £15; the annual cost £150.

We regret having to make these increases but undoubtedly we remain exceptionally competitive.

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CHILDREN CRAFT CLUB - LYMINGE LIBRARY - 10TH JANUARY - SEE P 6

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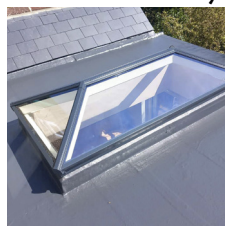
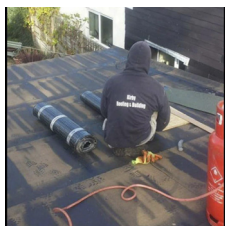
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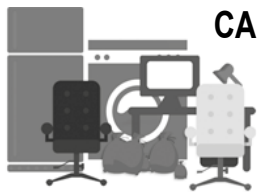
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LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

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

The War Memorial has stood in Lyminge Parish Churchyard since it was erected in 1921, after the end of the First World War.

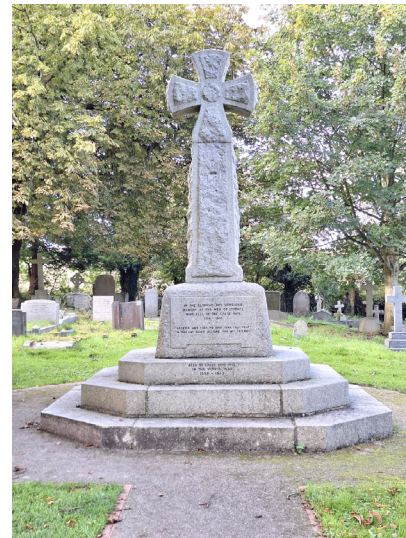
It was built to the design of Frederick Wheeler, a local fruit farmer who lived in Rhodes Minnis. It was dedicated at a service in September 1921, and annual Services of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion commenced in November 1924.

Initially this service was held on 11 November the anniversary of the Armistice that ended the war, and the two minutes of silence was rigidly observed across the country with traffic stopping and people marking the time silently wherever they were. The names of the 28 local men who died in the First World War are inscribed on the memorial. One of them, Private James William West is even buried in the churchyard, and a stone to him was recently



erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, but it is a cenotaph as surprisingly the location of his grave is unknown.

The picture to the left dates probably to the 1920s, and may show the memorial shortly after the first annual Service of Remembrance. The wreaths then were of fresh flowers. Burials had not extended to this

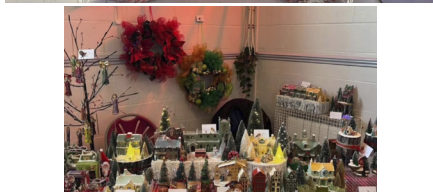


part of the churchyard, and as in many photographs of Lyminge at this time, there were many fewer trees. After the Second World War, thirteen more names were added to the memorial and the annual Service of Remembrance moved to the second Sunday in November, the one closest to the 11th. The path to the memorial was created in 2020.

35



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