

# THE LYMINGE NEWSLETTER

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

Produced by THE LYMINGE ASSOCIATION | [www.lyminge.org.uk](http://www.lyminge.org.uk)

From The Lyminge Association

APRIL 2026



## **GARAGE SALE**

**with TABLE SALE**  
at Lyminge Village Hall

### **SATURDAY 11TH APRIL**

Refreshments available at Village Hall until 12noon

You can still book your garage in by 3rd April  
Booking forms can be downloaded from [www.lyminge.org.uk/newsletter/](http://www.lyminge.org.uk/newsletter/) or collected from Snippers and Clippers.

Maps of the garage locations will be available on the day (11th) either online or can be collected from Lyminge Village Hall or Snippers and Clippers

### **The Lyminge Association**

have great pleasure in welcoming on stage



**At**

**Lyminge Village Hall**

**7.30pm**

**Friday 24th April**

**Cost £7.50 per ticket**

**Under 12 years £3**

**Bring your own food and drink**

**Tickets available ONLY from Laing Bennett from 10th April**

**Note from the editor:** Please accept my apologies for the late delivery of March's edition of the newsletter. Four hitches conspired against the normal delivery times, and I hope this will not occur again.

# Margaret Saunders' Meanderings

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

## April

April 2025 opens with more long sunny days which continue to withhold the now much needed rain. Early tree blossoms are starting to go over as other trees begin to flower at the same time as their leaves open. The first lambs are gaining weight and strength as later ones arrive. Autumn sown crops provide a soft wash of green across and along the valley as Spring sowings endeavour to catch up.

The Anglo-Saxon name for April is *ēastre-monað* and it is generally thought that the word *ēastre* is the origin of our word Easter, which often falls in April, as it does this year on 20 April. Easter can fall on any date between 22 March and 25 April. Determining the date of Easter Sunday is connected to the paschal full moon—the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.

Court Lodge Green has patches of nodding cowslips, as does the field between Brady Road and Skeete. There is a field in Bishopsbourne, on the way out to Crow's Camp, that has been sown with cowslips. It is a long narrow field, but every inch is covered in bobbing yellow heads. The land is owned by a member of the Neame family of local brewers Shepherd Neame, and is a delight to behold. With such an abundance of flowers, it is hoped that their seeds will take off with the wind and so germinate in surrounding areas, as cowslips suffered a serious decline in the 1970s and 1980s due to the change in agricultural practices. Seeds from the plant are now included in wildflower seed mixes which are used to landscape motorway banks, so it is hoped that their decline can be reversed. Other places where they can be seen locally are on a large grassy area on a bend along the valley and on a bank this side of Barham. The common name cowslip may derive from the old English for cow dung, probably because the plant was often found growing amongst the manure in cow pastures. Cowslips have also been called 'St. Peter's keys' or 'keys of heaven' because the one-sided flower heads look like a set of keys.

Gardens begin to burst forth with welcome colour. Primroses and primulas in particular have done well this year. Daffodils and hyacinths are now all but finished, making way for a range of more colourful late Spring flowers. Woods and forest floors fill with bluebells, their violet-blue making a delicate sea of colour. Almost half the world's bluebells are found in the UK and their presence is often an indicator of

ancient woodland. Other names for this beautiful flower are crow-toes, cuckoo's boots, wood hyacinth, lady's nightcap and witches' thimbles.

Nest building is in full swing and frequent bathing in my bird bath keeps birds' feathers in fine fettle for the arduous days ahead when fledglings need constant feeding. Second or third broods often follow on and there can be no let-up for some species until August. A bee-fly, a native of this country, makes its annual visit to my garden with its hairy body and buzzing wings, visiting the primroses and forget-me-nots where its long proboscis probes deep into the centre of the flower seeking out the nectar. It is a fly which looks and sounds like a bee, hovering around flowers before it descends to gorge on the nectar.

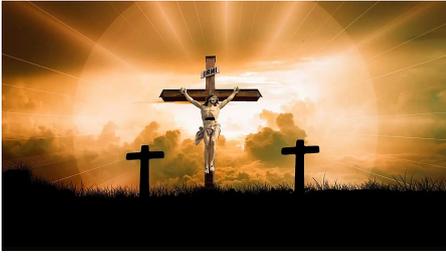
Dry beech leaves begin to be released from their twigs as new growth appears, sending the crisp and curly copper-coloured leaves swirling around in the wind, light because they are devoid of moisture. In the beech woods, these form beautiful carpets which, over the coming years, will decay and nourish the trees from which they came.

Road verges have become dense with dandelions and daisies amongst thick verdant grass. Bluebells, buttercups and bumblebees abound, giving colour and sound to the countryside. Violets and ground ivy, their small purple flowers almost lost amongst the fast growing grass, begin to appear, as do alkanet and red campion.

By the end of the month, silvery white clocks replace the vibrant sunshine-yellow of the earlier dandelion flowers. Smaller flowers begin to bloom in amongst the grass, the tall blades protecting them from the heat of the sun. I'm hoping these verges will not be mown for some time to come, allowing nature to fulfil her purpose. As more and more leaves unfurl the landscape is gradually turning from brown to green, bringing it back to life.

April ends with more record-breaking hot days. Bird baths are drying out rapidly, the earth at the bottom of the village pond becomes baked and cracked and the uprising of water opposite Ottinge Court Farm has now become dry, rendering the ducks homeless, until the Winter rains saturate the ground once more in the never ending cycle of life and death, plenty and scarcity.





## GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL

3<sup>rd</sup> April

Outside Methodist Church

11am

All welcome

Followed by hot cross buns and coffee



## Prayer and Praise Service



Lyminge Methodist Church

Wednesdays at 7pm

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

May 20<sup>th</sup>

June 17<sup>th</sup>

All welcome

# 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
3rd April	11.00am	Good Friday Meditation
5th April	10.15am	Easter Communion at <b>Elham</b> : Rev Malcolm Peach
12th April	11.00am	Mr Tim James
19th April	11.00am	Video service: Rev. Gill Songer
26th April	11.00am	Mr David Songer
3rd May	11.00am	Rev Peter Cornish

Coffee & Cake in aid of Roof Fund: 10 – 12noon, Tuesdays, 14th & 28th April

### RHODES MINNIS

Date	Time	Event
5th April	10.15am	Valley Service at Elham Rev Malcolm Peach incl Holy Communion
12th April	9.30am	Mr Dwight Harris
19th April	9.30am	Local Arrangement
26th April	9.30am	Mr Tom Lewis
3rd May	9.30am	Rev Gill Songer

## St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

Date	Location	Time	Event
Thursday 2nd April Maudy Thursday	Elham	6.00pm	Benefice Maundy Service
Friday 3rd April Good Friday	Lyminge	11.00am	An hour at the Cross. - Churches Together
Sunday 5th April Easter Day	Paddlesworth Lyminge	6.00am	Day Break Service and Breakfast
		11.15am	Easter Holy Communion CW1
Sunday 12th April	Lyminge	8.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion (BCP) Choral Evensong
Sunday 19th April	Lyminge Paddlesworth	10.00am 4.00pm	Holy Communion (CW1) Evensong (BCP)
Sunday 26th April	Paddlesworth Lyminge	8.00am 10.00am	Holy Communion Family Praise
Sunday 3rd May	Lyminge Paddlesworth	8.00am 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

## Why are Easter Eggs associated with Easter?

Easter eggs symbolise new life, rebirth, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ, marking the end of the fasting season of Lent. Historically, eggs were decorated to celebrate spring, a tradition adopted by early Christians to represent the empty tomb, and were used as festive foods after being forbidden during Lent.

# LYMINGE COMMUNITY HUB

Our third public meeting was held on Thursday, 5th March in the Lyminge Methodist Church as planned. We would like to thank all those residents from Lyminge and Etchinghill who attended the meeting and especially those who have kindly offered to distribute future flyers and leaflets.

Following a short PowerPoint presentation detailing a brief history of Jubilee House in Everist Court (our preferred location for our proposed Lyminge Community Hub), details were shared of our efforts to date to secure use of the ground floor only of the building and the various services we are aiming to provide. These include a café, a charity shop, a repair shop and meeting facilities available to hire by local organisations who have already expressed interest in using our community hub.

Lyminge has a population of about 2,700 residents and whilst there are 79 sheltered properties in Lyminge and Etchinghill for people over the age of 55, there is nowhere those residents can go to and meet friends and make new connections.

As we have advised in previous newsletters, social isolation is an issue in rural communities, particularly where there is no provision to address this. Young people are also often affected by social isolation if there is no recreational provision for them and this is something we would also aim to address.

In order for the building to be converted entirely into flats, Folkestone & Hythe District Council will need to submit a planning application for a Change of Use

from Community to Housing. It is important to note that Jubilee House has been a Community Centre for 49 years and we also arranged for it to be registered as an Asset of Community Value in June 2025. When the Planning Application for Change of Use from Community to Housing is lodged, there will be three weeks in which residents can submit their comments and we are hoping that as many as possible will object to the loss of a community facility, which would certainly enable us to address the issues surround social isolation. We have investigated other possibilities in the village and this is the only one where there is space for a dedicated kitchen to be able to provide hot meals/food.

Finally, members of our Lyminge Community Hub committee attended the coffee morning hosted by Sojan Joseph MP on Saturday, 7th March in the Coach & Horses in Lyminge. The event was well attended and we covered a wide range of topics including flooding in the Elham Valley, the ongoing saga of potholes and our proposals for a Lyminge Community Hub for which he was very supportive.

## LYMINGE NEWSLETTER DELIVERER

### REQUIRED FOR PEENE

This newsletter has been delivered to most households in Peene for several years. However, the current deliverer has resigned and a new volunteer is needed to takeover this round.

**If you are able to help please contact Richard Chubb on 01303 862015.**

If we are unable to recruit a replacement, you can still collect a copy from Lyminge Library, Lyminge Food & Wine, The Coffee Cabin, China China or Farthing Common Nursery.

**Local Village Taxi**  
For all your travel arrangements  
Contact Richard  
07970 12 12 12



# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I recently had the pleasure of hosting a community coffee morning at the Coach & Horses pub, where I had the opportunity to speak with many local residents about the issues that matter most to them (See p35).

These informal gatherings are always a valuable opportunity to listen directly to residents and discuss a wide range of topics. Among the issues raised were the condition of local roads and the growing number of potholes, ongoing frustrations with Southern Water, questions about GP access, and rural bus services.

Holding these conversations with constituents and listening to their experiences first-hand enables me to raise these issues more effectively with the relevant authorities and continue pressing for improvements where they are needed. Whether it's pushing for road repairs, seeking accountability from water companies, or supporting essential local services, these conversations play an important role in shaping the work I do on behalf of our community.

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to the team at the Coach & Horses for generously hosting us and providing a space for residents to come together.

If you were unable attend this time, please remember that you don't need to wait for the next coffee morning to get in touch. If you have a concern that you would like me to address, I would always be happy to hear from you.

You can contact me by email at [sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk) or call on 01233 515107.

I look forward to holding more events like this in the future and continuing to listen to the issues that matter most to our community.

Kind regards

*Sojan Joseph*

Member of Parliament for Ashford, Hawkinge and the Villages

# 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](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com) or via methods outlined on Page 16.

## ONE-OFF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
4-6th April	10am	Easter Bunny Hunt (See P6)	EVLT	
5th April	6pm	Spring Quiz	EVH	
<b>11th April</b>		<b>GARAGE SALE</b>		<b>863600</b>
11th April	10am	Model Railway Exhibition	ELVH	07743704547
<b>24th April</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	<b>'The Undecided'</b>	<b>LVH</b>	
25th April	8.00am	Spring Boot Fayre	LW	
25th April	6pm	Spring Quiz	EVH	
16th May	6pm	Cantores: Schubert Mass in G (See P 12)	LPC	
17th May	6pm	Etchinghill Village Hall AGM		
<b>6th June</b>	<b>7pm</b>	<b>SPRING QUIZ</b>	<b>LVH</b>	
6-7th June	12noon	Postling Village Open Gardens	See P21	
13th June		Dog & Owners Fun Day	LW	
11th July		Boot & Summer Fayre (including motorbike food run)	LW	
8th August		Boot & Late Summer Fayre	LW	

## 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	07783575802
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	07977503897
Tues	9.30am	Tai Chi Qigong	EVH	07402203239
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	07951698008
Thurs	6.15pm	Pilates	TC	07951698008
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	

## MONTHLY EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
1st Mon	10am	Stroke Support Group	C&H	07903150099
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 <sup>3</sup>	7.30pm	LHS Talk/Event	TC	863879
2nd Tues	10am	Coffee Morning	LMC	863049
2nd Tues	2.30pm	Library Reading Group	LL	03000413 131
3rd Tues <sup>2</sup>	7.30pm	Gardeners' Society	TC	07703149008
4th Tues	10am	Coffee Morning	LMC	863049
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 Coffee Morning	PC	863536
2nd Sat	10am	Ethelburga Quilters	EVH	
4th Sun	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH	

<sup>1</sup> In term time only   <sup>2</sup> Except Jan and Feb   <sup>3</sup> Except Jan, Feb, and trip in Aug   <sup>4</sup> Except Aug and Dec   <sup>5</sup> Not held in August   \*\* 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; **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 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Mondays of the month  
10am until 12 noon  
at The Coach & Horses, Lyminge*

**Our next meetings will be on  
20<sup>th</sup> April  
NO MEETING - 6<sup>th</sup> April (Easter)**

*New faces very welcome*

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](mailto:LYMINGESTROKESOCIAL@GMAIL.COM)  
TELEPHONE FRAN ON 07846 177 409 OR HEATHER ON 07427 664 084



## POSTLING GLASSBLOWING

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Come and enjoy blowing some glass  
to create your very own piece.

Please contact us for further information

Martine: 07722 589910

Paul: 07951 628173

Inst. @postlingglassblowing  
FB. Postling Glassblowing  
G. Postling Glassblowing



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## LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026

The first in the village for 10 years . . .

# ELHAM



## Model Railway Exhibition

Open 10am-4pm

14 layouts  
+ trade support

**Saturday 11th  
April 2026** Elham Village Hall,  
High Street, Elham,  
nr Folkestone CT4 6SX

Adults £6, Kids £1 (5-16), Families £12 (2+3), u-5s free

Presented by East Kent Model Railway Society (Whitstable) in conjunction with  
Elham Valley Model Railway Club.

Model of Elham Valley Railway image from the Stephen Cupik Collection.

## Elham Valley Line



THE  
ELHAM VALLEY LINE  
TRUST



## Heritage Centre

Join us again for 2026  
From 21st March there is a FULL  
programme of events awaiting you

**EASTER BUNNY HUNT**  
over the Easter Holiday  
4-6th April



Open every weekend and Bank Holiday  
from 10am to 4pm from the 21st March  
until the end of November. Special Events  
throughout the year. Follow us on:

[www.elhamvalleylinetrust.org](http://www.elhamvalleylinetrust.org) and/or  
[www.facebook.com/ElhamValleyLineTrust](https://www.facebook.com/ElhamValleyLineTrust).  
**Official** for more details.

# Etchinghill update

## - April 2026

### ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)

For enquiries: Chairman: Victoria Couper-Samways - 07702 625474

email: [vickie.couper@icloud.com](mailto:vickie.couper@icloud.com) Website: [www.etchinghill.info](http://www.etchinghill.info)

 Etchinghill Residents

Etchinghill residents, together with many others from the Parish and beyond, filled The Gatekeeper on Sunday 1st March to mark the retirement of Helen and Eric (pictured on P35). They will continue living in the valley and plan to celebrate by taking a number of extended motoring tours around the UK this summer. We wish them a long and happy retirement and welcome Shane Hughes to Etchinghill as both the new landlord of 'our local' and as a member of the ERA committee.

We have been liaising with Kent County Council Highways and the Parish Council regarding the significant surface water run-off across Canterbury Road, Etchinghill and the deteriorating condition of the road surface. A request has been submitted for the drainage system to be cleared as a matter of priority.

The old Hospital Wall at the bottom of Westfield Lane has been cleared of ivy and overgrowth and has revealed a previously hidden gateway opposite Tolsford Close. The wall is a potential 'Locally Listed' non-designated Heritage Asset and now looks totally different. Thank you to those that cleared the wall.

Unfortunately there has been a spate of dog fouling in the village, particularly around the bottom of Westfield Lane by Tolsford Close and the grass verge, driveway entrance to Holly Tree House along with the pétanque area. The majority of dog owners clear up after their dogs, however the odd few give the rest a bad name. Please have more consideration for the other residents of our lovely hamlet and pick up after your dogs.

**FILM NIGHT – Etchinghill Village Hall – Monday 20th April – Doors Open 7pm for a 7.30 Start – 'The Choral' 2025 (15)** Run time: 1hr 53mins. Starring Ralph Fiennes and Roger Allam. As WW1 rages on, the Choral Society in a small English town has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral Society committee is determined to press ahead with new recruits. They engage a driven new choral master, Dr Henry Guthrie – recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the community discovers that the best response to the war is to make music together. Entry fee is only £6pp (cash only please) 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.

**Remembrance Sunday Poppy Appeal** – as in previous years, we are again seeking volunteers to knit or crochet poppies to decorate the village sign in Canterbury Road, Etchinghill in time for the run up to Remembrance Sunday in November. We would like to have enough poppies to attach to village benches and lamp posts. Volunteers are needed to spread the word and share the workload! Your support will be greatly appreciated. For further details please contact Denise on 07929 031567.

**ERA Fun Spring Quiz Saturday 25th April Etchinghill Village Hall** Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. Entry fee is only £5pp – no charge for under 18's or full-time students. To reserve a table



(maximum 6 persons) or to make a raffle donation, contact Victoria on 07702 625474 or email [Vickie.couper@icloud.com](mailto:Vickie.couper@icloud.com). Please book your table soon to secure a place.

### ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL

(Charity 302736)

Chairman: John White  
 Etchinghill Village Hall Kent  
**Bookings:**

Anna Allan 07514 758936  
Email: [d.allan142@btinternet.com](mailto:d.allan142@btinternet.com)

**The Etchinghill Village Hall Annual General Meeting** will be held on Sunday 17th May from 6pm. If you have any suggestions or would just like to be updated on what is going on with the hall, please come along. All Etchinghill residents are welcome. The meeting will last one hour and refreshments will be available following the meeting.

A gentle reminder to book your child's party as far in advance as you can, as our weekends are filling up fast and with the good weather to come, our fenced garden/patio area can be put to good use too.

# District Councillors' update

## – April 2026



**Budget** – the FHDC budget was set at the full Council Meeting held on 25 February. My group voted against the budget as we felt borrowing £6m to improve the Hythe Swimming Pool was not a sensible decision. Whilst the Conservative group is fully supportive of providing a pool in Hythe, it questions the wisdom of spending this large amount of money on an ailing pool which has already cost residents substantial sums annually simply to patch it and keep it open with no income stream fully supporting it. We feel this funding, together with S106 monies from the Nickolls Quarry development, should be put towards a new facility that could create additional income to help with running costs and for future sustainability. However, this could all be changed under Local Government re-organisation when Folkestone & Hythe become part of a large Unitary Administration. We should know the government's decision on who we will merge with some time during the summer. I will be attending a Working Group on 24 March to find out and discuss issues facing the District Council.

**Otterpool Park** – As I understand it Homes England have contributed £2m to the project under the current collaboration agreement. I have gathered from the Budget that the District Council will match this amount. I continue to ask questions on this project and I am looking forward to hearing the outcome of this collaboration agreement.

**My account** – My account is a good way of reporting issues to the Council. There is a long list of issues that can be reported in this way, for example fly tipping, missed bin, anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, dangerous dog etc. If you have not registered go to [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) and click on My account at the top right hand corner

**Independent Custody Visitors** - The ICV Scheme is a statutory, volunteer led programme that helps ensure people held in police custody are treated fairly, with dignity, and informed of their rights. Volunteers make unannounced visits to custody suites and play a vital role in safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Applications are welcomed from people of all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences. If you'd like to give back, support your community, and help promote transparency in policing, this could be the role for you. Applicants must be at least 18 years old to apply. Find out more and to apply, please visit [kent-pcc.gov.uk/icv](http://kent-pcc.gov.uk/icv)

**Sandgate Road Car Park** – the pilot scheme of using the ANPR system of parking will be discontinued as from 31 March 2026. The scheme caused long queues after shows in the Leas Cliff Hall and also attracted vandalism and antisocial behaviour. As from 1 April 2026, it will go back to being a 'pay and display' car park.

**Ward Grants** – the 2025/26 scheme is now closed and will re-open for 26/27 at the end of May.

Contact:

[jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

**Town of Culture** More than 90 people attended workshops to help in the first stage of a possible bid for Folkestone to become the UK's first Town of Culture. The workshop discussions and feedback will greatly assist the council to write an expression of interest in putting the town forward for the accolade. If successful the next stage would be the preparation of a full bid to gain the prestigious title and £3 million to fund a programme of cultural celebrations during 2028.

Free district-wide programmes are running to help businesses adapt, attract customers and grow. Free mentoring and interactive workshops are being offered as ideal for high street retailers, cafes, hospitality venues and visitor facing independents. The rural programme will empower creative makers and diversification projects across Romney Marsh, the North Downs and rural communities. They are ideal for farm enterprises, rural producers, accommodation providers, home based makers and start ups. More information by emailing [economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

**F&HDC's 2026/27 budget** has been approved. While it provides £20m to be spent on key services supporting residents across the district, there is also a strong focus on the future. The budget is supported by a 2.99% increase in the district council's portion of council tax (equivalent to approximately 17p a week for a Band D property). The council is responsible for collecting council tax but 75% of the money is distributed to other services e.g. Kent Fire and Rescue. Included in the budget was money set aside to work up a planning application for the remodelling of Everist Court to provide five properties for older tenants in the area. City Guardians are currently providing security for the building to prevent squatting and theft. City Guardians work by letting out rooms on a rolling monthly contract so the council can get the property back at very short notice. Guardians must be over 18 years old and are vetted by City Guardians before they are registered to rent rooms from any of their properties.

**Folca 2**, the Art Deco section of a former Debenhams department store, will be subject to a range of improvement works ahead of its re-purposing, starting Monday 9 March. Over six months the structure will be made watertight and ready for use. The CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of the building will be reduced by over 100,000kg per year.

Contact:

[Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

# Fifth Trust update

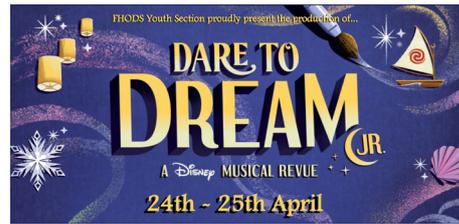


As the weather improves, we'd love to see you at the garden centre for Spring essentials or at the café for a bite to eat overlooking the vineyard; it really does come to life this time of year!

From 3rd-12th April 2026, we're bringing back our FREE Easter egg hunt. Join us at the Vineyard Garden Centre for an egg citing family adventure. Pick up a map, follow the clues, crack the code, and claim your prize!

This year, children can also enjoy a new eco-friendly craft activity in the Garden Centre (£3.50 per child). Little ones can decorate their own plant pot, create an Easter character label and then plant their own seeds to take home and nurture! A wonderful way to welcome spring and keep the fun going through half term.

# THE TOWER THEATRE FOLKESTONE



For full details of all our forthcoming shows and to book tickets, please scan the QR code, call the Box Office on 01303 223925 or visit [towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk](http://towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk)

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](http://www.lyminge.org.uk/newsletter)



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SCHOOL FOR DOGS

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Email: [megan@bestbehaviourschoolfordogs.co.uk](mailto:megan@bestbehaviourschoolfordogs.co.uk)  
[www.bestbehaviourschoolfordogs.co.uk](http://www.bestbehaviourschoolfordogs.co.uk)

## LYMINGE SPEEDWATCH

Your local group will be commencing the 2026 speed monitoring sessions shortly but we need to **INCREASE THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS.**

We now have more authorised sites from which we can operate within the Parish but we need more volunteers (particularly in Lyminge and Rhodes Minnis) to make full use of them. Each session requires three volunteers.

Can you help? It could just be 1.5 hours once or twice a month at various times and days.

If you would like to help or would like more information (or we can arrange a short roadside 'taster' during one of our regular sessions) then please contact:

**DENNIS CHARMAN,**  
LYMINGE SPEEDWATCH CO-ORDINATOR  
[lymingespeed@aol.com](mailto:lymingespeed@aol.com) or 07739998262

More information can be found on the Kent Police website 'Community Speedwatch'



# Singing FOR ALL

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**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
11:30AM - 12:30PM  
at The Tayne Centre.  
Church Road, Lyminge, CT18 8JN

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>  
and 29<sup>th</sup> April  
11:30AM - 12:30PM  
at the Methodist Church.  
Church Rd, Lyminge, CT18 8JA

Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford  
**ageUK**

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




Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford  
**ageUK**

## Dementia Services Showcase Ashford Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

Ashford Community Support Hub, Farrow Court,  
Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF  
10am - 3pm | Free to attend

**As part of Dementia Action Awareness Week,  
join us for a community event, open to  
professionals and the public.**

- Discover the support available
- Learn about our dementia services
- Access information, advice and guidance
- Meet our team and partner organisations
- Activity taster sessions including MCST (Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy)
- Mature Drivers' Seminar (from Kent Road Safety)

**For more information, please call: 01303 269602**

Organisations wishing to showcase their services should contact: [admin@ageukhla.org.uk](mailto:admin@ageukhla.org.uk)  
Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6589817. \* Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2026.

# LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026

# 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  
TEL: 01303 862425  
EMAIL: [lymingeinformed@gmail.com](mailto:lymingeinformed@gmail.com)

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




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CALL: 07912 757311  
[WWW.FABRICCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK](http://WWW.FABRICCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK)

Your local

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- Stroke & neurological physiotherapy
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- Serving Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe

 [jaynesteadmanphysiotherapy.co.uk](http://jaynesteadmanphysiotherapy.co.uk)  
 07903 866 590  
 [jayne@steadmanphysio.co.uk](mailto:jayne@steadmanphysio.co.uk)  
 The Barn, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, CT4 6BB



## 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](mailto:acac.class@outlook.com)

## THE UNDECIDED - LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

11

## PRESENTATION BY SUE MARSHAL "THE CULTIVATION OF BEARDED IRISES"



Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April  
The Tayne Centre, Lyminge  
Refreshments from 7:15pm  
Presentation starts 7:30pm  
*Non-Members very welcome*



For more information about the Gardeners' Society please email: [lymingegardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lymingegardeners@gmail.com) or call Anne on 07703 14900



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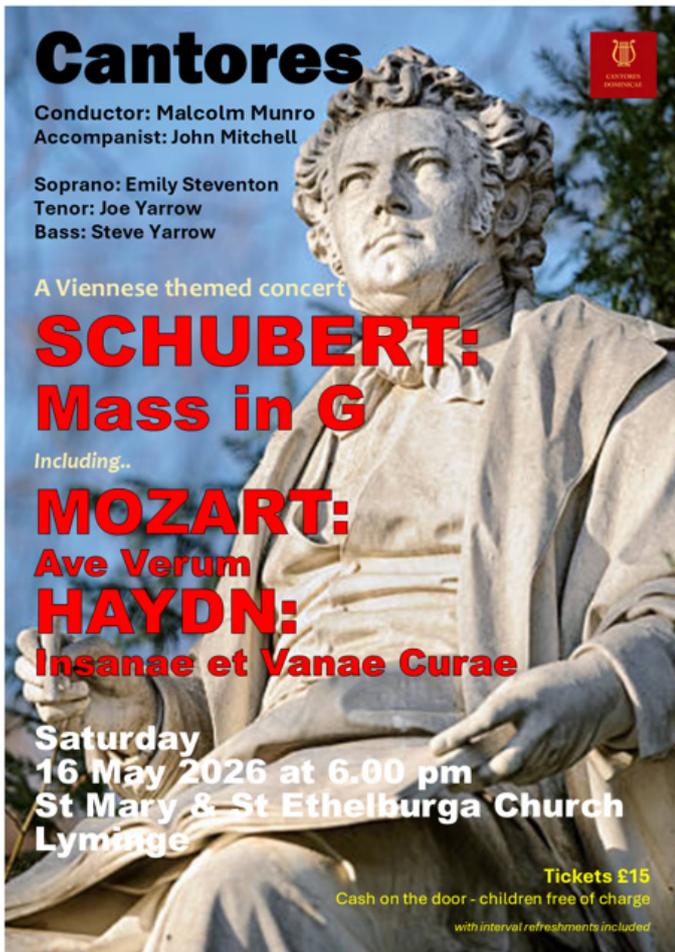
✓ ALL STERILE AND SINGLE USE INSTRUMENTS USED FOR EVERY CLIENT TO STAY IN LINE WITH MY MEDICAL GUIDELINES, SO NO CROSS CONTAMINATION BETWEEN CLIENTS.

 07832 797341

 [jayne@solelyfootcare.co.uk](mailto:jayne@solelyfootcare.co.uk)

 [www.solelyfootcare.co.uk](http://www.solelyfootcare.co.uk)

4 Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HP



**Cantores**

Conductor: Malcolm Munro  
Accompanist: John Mitchell

Soprano: Emily Steventon  
Tenor: Joe Yarrow  
Bass: Steve Yarrow

A Viennese themed concert

**SCHUBERT:  
Mass in G**

Including..

**MOZART:  
Ave Verum**

**HAYDN:  
Insanae et Vanae Curae**

Saturday  
16 May 2026 at 6.00 pm  
St Mary & St Ethelburga Church  
Lyminge

Tickets £15  
Cash on the door - children free of charge  
with interval refreshments included

*A Special Relationship*

Vintage cabaret music from America's golden years



Helen Crayford  
*piano*

Penelope Turner  
*mezzo soprano*

Gershwin | Weill | Britten

Sunday April 19, 2026 at 3pm

St Mary the Virgin Church

Vicarage Lane, Elham  
Canterbury, CT4 6TT

Tickets on the door: Adults £15 | Under 18s free

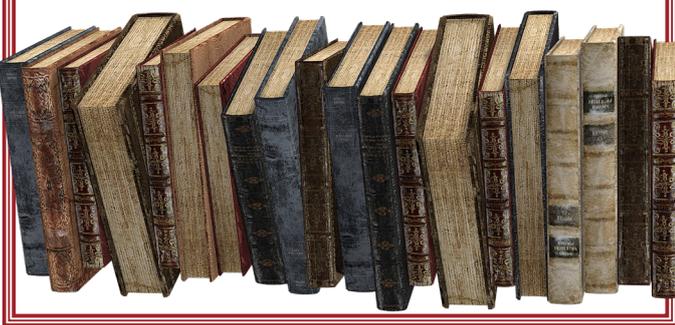
**LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026**

**Antiquarian  
Books Wanted**

[no paperbacks or annuals please]

Call Jonathan on  
07545 043065  
or email  
louis88books@gmail.com

Louis88Books



ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL  
Annual General Meeting

The Etchinghill Village Hall AGM  
will be held on  
Sunday 17th May 2026 at 6pm

All Etchinghill residents are welcome and the Etchinghill Village Hall Trustees look forward to welcoming you to join them.

If you would like to put your name forward as a Trustee, would like to help out on an *ad hoc* basis, or would just like to keep up to date with Village Hall life, this is your opportunity. Please come along to support your Village Hall. (The meeting will last no longer than 1 hour). Refreshments will be available following the AGM.

JOHN WHITE  
CHAIRMAN  
ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL TRUSTEES

In aid of  
**Lord Whisky Animal Sanctuary Fund**  
 Charity Number: 283483

# Boot & Spring Fayre

**Saturday 25th April 2026**  
**8:00am - 3:00pm**

*Canterbury pipe band, Bouncy Castle, Punch & Judy, Classic Cars Welcome & so much more!*

*Entry by generous donation*  
*Every penny helps care for the rescued animals at Lord Whisky Animal Sanctuary.*

**A LOVELY FUN DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
 Park House, Stelling Minnis, Nr Canterbury, CT4 6AN

**Ellen Garrard**  
 counselling, supervision, mindfulness

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 Hythe area

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 Call: 07740 857109  
 Email: [ejgarrard2712@gmail.com](mailto:ejgarrard2712@gmail.com)  
 Visit: [www.ellengarrard.co.uk](http://www.ellengarrard.co.uk)

## THE UNDECIDED - LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

**NEW ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Cody's Dog Tales*  
 Dog Walking/Fet Services

**MONDAY**  
 8AM - 5PM

**TUESDAY**  
 8AM - 5PM

**WEDNESDAY**  
 8AM - 3PM

**THURSDAY**  
 8AM - 3PM

**FRIDAY**  
 8AM - 3PM

**WEEKENDS -By Appointment**

**OPEN**

First aid trained/Fully insured dog walker in Lyminge and surrounding areas! **BOOK NOW.....**

**Contact Us - 07780001890**  
[codysdogtales@hotmail.com](mailto:codysdogtales@hotmail.com)  
[www.codysdogtales.co.uk](http://www.codysdogtales.co.uk)  
 Instagram/Facebook/TikTok

Lyminge Historical Society

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE AT 7.30PM ON TUESDAY 7TH APRIL AT THE TAYNE CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, LYMINGE CT18 8JA**

**American Civil War Veteran in Folkestone**  
**Speakers: Gina Denham and Darren Rawlings**

**Members Free**  
 New members and visitors are always welcome  
 Visitors: £5 Payable on the door  
 All our publications are on sale at our meetings, at Lyminge Library and at Lyminge Village Store.

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**  
 5th May: Magna Carta and Canterbury - Cressida Williams  
 2nd June: Doodlebugs and Rockets - Bob Ogle  
 1st September: A History of the Granville Hotel, St Margaret's Bay - Wendy Fraser



*From Christopher Hespe,  
Kent County Councillor  
for Elham Valley and Deputy  
Cabinet Member for Finance  
and Cross-Cabinet Activity*

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

The government's public consultation ends on 26 March 2026 and it is anticipated that the shape of local government in Kent will be announced in early July. KCC strongly believes that 'Option 1A' is the best for the County, involving a single Unitary authority with three Area Assemblies. This would provide the strategic capability; avoid costly and disruptive disaggregation of 'people-based' services such as Adult Social Care and SEND; provide local level services, and be significantly less expensive than all the other options. Option 1A is £459 million less expensive than one of the other options being put forward by district councils, and currently there is no indication that central government would meet those costs. KCC is concerned that the costs of local government reorganisation would fall on the local Council Taxpayers. You will find all options from Kent detailed on the Kent Leaders' website and on the KCC website. Please make your views known.

### **School Places**

96% of Kent pupils have been offered one of their preferred secondary schools for September 2026; that is 17,941 pupils – an increase of 304 children from the past year.

### **Trading Standards Alert**

Please be aware that Trading Standards has received reports of doorstep criminals in East Kent, intimidating residents into paying for gutter clearance and online investments.

### **Kent Film Office**

The Kent Film Office has just celebrated its 20th anniversary of supporting film and TV in Kent. Over this period, £85 million of increased investment has been generated; it has supported hundreds of placements into the industry and strengthened Kent's growing creative sector. Its work continues to bring jobs, skills and fresh opportunities to local

people, whilst promoting Kent's heritage, coast and countryside on screen.

### **Playground Festival**

KCC is organising a programme of creative activities for babies and young people between 22 and 31 May 2026, involving 150 events at 20 venues, primarily libraries and community hubs. For more information, visit [www.playgroundkent.co.uk](http://www.playgroundkent.co.uk)

### **Infrastructure Funding Statement**

KCC continues to secure significant Section 106 contributions from developers to support education, highways, adult social care and community services. This funding helps KCC to deliver new school places, invest into local roads, improve public rights of way and strengthen community facilities. The annual KCC Infrastructure Funding Statement is online on the KCC website, and contains a breakdown by district for 2024/25.

### **Kent and Medway Business Fund**

The Fund, which helps local businesses to grow, innovate and create jobs, is open for applications. Since November 2025, 17 new loans with a total value of £2 million have been issued. Details can be found on the Web.

### **Kent and Medway Growth Hub**

The Hub provides support to businesses as they grow, adapt and plan for the future. In the first three quarters of 2025/26, the Hub supported 1,106 businesses and gave targeted support to 770 of them. Businesses are given practical tools to help them succeed. Recent workshops organised have been on digital marketing, artificial intelligence in business and starting a business.

### **Visit Kent and Invest Kent (formerly Locate in Kent)**

Invest Kent provides guidance on property, talent, supply chains and local networks. Visit Kent has resumed its active marketing to encourage visitor footfall across the County. Spring will see the launch of free access to business and marketing support for tourism bodies (see VisitKent website for details).

## **VOLUNTEER LETTINGS SECRETARY REQUIRED**

for Valley Methodist Church, Lyminge and Tayne Centre.

About 2hrs a week. To receive booking enquiries via telephone and email to enable smooth running of hall lets. Some computer work required.

Please contact the Rev. Gill Songer for more information

[gill.songer@methodist.org.uk](mailto:gill.songer@methodist.org.uk)

# Lyminge Friends

Our talk on Wednesday, 1st April is:

## "The Bookseller's Tale" - Martin Latham.

Martin has been a bookseller for 40 years. He will give an experienced, personal and entertaining account of life as a bookseller, combining interesting anecdotes about his career.

**"Mr Garrick's Fireside : A Personal History of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane"** is our talk on Wednesday, 6th May. The speaker, **Pete Allen**, worked at the Theatre for many years and has interesting and funny anecdotes to tell.

*Everyone welcome – Entry is £4 for Social Meetings (including Tea/Coffee)*

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 10.30am to 12.00pm  
unless stated otherwise.*

# Kingdom

## INTERIORS

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[www.kingdom-interiors.co.uk](http://www.kingdom-interiors.co.uk)

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

15



**OPEN DAY**  
Saturday 30th May  
10.00am – 1.00pm

📍 **Age UK Hythe, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, Kent, CT21 6BD**

📍 **Age UK Ashford, Farrow Court, Stanhope Road, Ashford, TN23 5RF**

Join us and find out more about the services available in your local community.

- ✓ Discover the support we offer
- ✓ Learn about our Wellbeing Services
- ✓ Learn about our Dementia Services
- ✓ Meet our team and ask questions

Everyone is welcome and our open day is free to attend!

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



Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6589817. © Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2026.



**FREE**

Join Us

## Mature Drivers & Passenger Course

Aimed at drivers over 55, topics include: general health, fatigue, alcohol, hazard awareness, crash causation and speed limits

- 📅 Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026
- 🕒 Choose your time - 10am or 2pm
- 📍 Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford, Sanford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD, 01303 269602

Sign up with the QR code below or contact Jack - 03000 423 460 [saferroadusers@kent.gov.uk](mailto:saferroadusers@kent.gov.uk)



Editor: [pbarnes20@icloud.com](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com) | Tel: 07808 775302

# Lyminge Newsletter

## TERMS & CONDITIONS:

**Copy deadline for next edition - 18 April 2026**

Please email your copy to the editor at [pbarnes20@icloud.com](mailto: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](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com)



Every 4th Sunday

9.30 - 12.30

## LYMINGE ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET

22nd February

22nd March

**26th April**

24th May

LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL  
WOODLAND ROAD CT18 8EW

## THE UNDECIDED - LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL - FRIDAY 24TH APRIL

# THE KING'S ARMS

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR COUNTRY PUB...

### QUIZ NIGHTS

JOIN US ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> 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 -	<u>Friday &amp; Saturday -</u>	Golden Years Menu (65+)
<u>Monday - Thursday</u>	Lunch 12-3pm	Monday - Friday
Lunch 12-3pm	Dinner 5.30-9pm	12-3pm
Dinner 5.30-8.30pm	<u>Sunday</u>	<b>BAR MENU</b>
	Lunch 12-6pm	<b>MONDAY - SATURDAY</b>
		<b>12-5PM</b>

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

Email: [info@thekingsarmselham.com](mailto: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](mailto:thoughtfulfoodgroup@gmail.com) f j @thoughtfulfoodgroup

Next **Thoughtful Food** meeting, **7.30pm MONDAY 27th April**, at The Coach & Horses.



**There are many heroes in this part of Kent using their energies to transform food systems, and Alise Kirtley has the privilege of working with many of these people, in her role as coordinator of a new Local Food Partnership.**

Her own journey into food is a fascinating one. Alise's background is as a dementia care consultant. A nomadic character, Alise found herself in Folkestone where she felt a connection, felt she had come home. Whilst trying to establish social connections in her new home she met Cherry Truluck of the Custom Food Lab and Locavore community garden, and was taken with Cherry's initiative to invigorate under-used spaces.



Alise shared her experience of so many care homes having gardens that are under utilised while residents remain inside – often with extensive knowledge and skills around growing and planting. She asked, *'What if there was a way of an intergenerational exchange between care home residents and nearby school children, to make these spaces into living resources for planting, growing food and connecting with nature?'* The older generation could share with the younger generation the joy of caring and watching a seedling push through the earth, through to

a shared meal from their gardening efforts many months later, and so much more. Cherry was able to successfully bid for funding from the Delfina Foundation to turn this idea into a reality.

This has led to where Alise is now, studying for a PhD at Sussex University, as part of the UK Sustainable Food Systems Programme. There are links to this work, and other local food initiatives Alise is involved with, at the end of this article but VERY briefly Alise's research asks how do you grow communities through food narratives and activities, whilst engendering a connectedness to nature. She is surprised by how many people do not see food as nature, such is our disconnection. Playing a major role in the Folkestone and Hythe District Food Network – now the South Kent Coast Food Partnership - Alise is searching for groups and individuals who can help achieve their 8 goals.

#### District Food Network Goals

1. No-one goes hungry
2. No food wasted
3. Access to 'good food' for all anchor institutions
4. Create a 'food hub' / 'community kitchen' with communal cooking eating space
5. DFN transport and distribution service
6. Folkestone & Hythe district residents are active, empowered 'food citizens'; the district is seen as a hub of good food
7. Rainwater harvesting and community composting across the district
8. All school children in Folkestone & Hythe district understand 'good food'; environmental justice

If you are such an individual or group, please contact Alise by emailing [southkentcoastfood@gmail.com](mailto:southkentcoastfood@gmail.com)

[cusp.ac.uk/themes/food/blog-fltkufs-27-actions/](http://cusp.ac.uk/themes/food/blog-fltkufs-27-actions/)

[cherrytruluck.co.uk/2024/11/21/custom-food-lab/](http://cherrytruluck.co.uk/2024/11/21/custom-food-lab/)

[folke.world/](http://folke.world/)

[www.delfinafoundation.com/](http://www.delfinafoundation.com/)

#### Wild Garlic Pesto



One of the most popular options for wild garlic is to turn it into a brilliantly punchy pesto sauce. Blitz the wild garlic leaves with parmesan, garlic, lemon and pine nuts to form a rough paste. This easy homemade pesto will keep in the fridge for two weeks and is delicious stirred through pasta or drizzled over salads, soups and fish dishes.





# LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

*For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis*

## Jubilee Field Skate Park

**LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS.**

Whether you use the facility regularly, occasionally, or not at all, your feedback will help us understand how the space is used and what improvements may be needed.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, and your responses will help guide future decisions about

maintaining and developing this valued community facility.

**How to use the QR code:**

Simply open the camera on your smartphone and point it at the QR code. A link will pop up on your screen – tap the link to open the survey.

**Lyminge Parish Council**  
Scan the QR code to submit your feedback on Jubilee Field Skate Park



### WHAT WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH

**The Royal Camino Way Route Cards** which can now be accessed on our parish website – [www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/](http://www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk/news/)

The council are aware of all the **potholes** around after the very wet winter. Please go to <https://tinyurl.com/KentRoadsPotholes> and report any potholes in our parish.

**Tayne Field playpark.** Obscene graffiti was found at the playpark. It was reported and dealt with two days after being reported.

**Fly tipping.** It was reported on Facebook by a parishioner. Although we found that it had already been reported, a site visit was made, photos taken and sent to Public Rights of Way Office. The link to the Public Rights of Way office is:

[webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/standardmap.aspx](http://webapps.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccesscams/standardmap.aspx)

**Plants** which, by the time this goes to press, have been planted in Mount Pleasant planters. We hope you enjoy them!

The following meetings all take place at LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL

**FULL COUNCIL** 21 April 19.00

Please note all planning meetings will now be held at Lyminge Village Hall. Any additional meetings will be on our noticeboards/website

Councillor contact details are available on our website

**WHO'S WHO**

**Chairman of**

**Lyminge Parish Council:**

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

[www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
Tel: 07999 403948

Lyminge Parish encompasses the villages of Lyminge, Etchinghill and part of Rhodes Minnis and lies within the Kent Downs National Landscape.



# Who is Debbie Capon

**HELLO! I'M PLEASED TO INTRODUCE MYSELF AS ONE OF YOUR COUNCIL TEAM**

Hello, my name is Debbie Capon and I am part of the behind-the-scenes team at Lyminge Parish Council. My official title is Social Media and Marketing Officer, although my role is quite wide-ranging.

I manage bookings for Lyminge Village Hall, look after the Parish Council's Facebook and Instagram pages, and compile the information for our two pages in *Lyminge Magazine*. I also help with many of the day-to-day queries and tasks that arise within the Parish.

I was born on the Romney Marsh and moved to London at the age of seventeen and a half. After a variety of temporary jobs, I was fortunate enough to begin a career in the advertising industry, eventually finishing my London career as Head of TV for several advertising agencies.

My husband and I then spent ten wonderful years living in France, where we restored an old farmhouse and created gîtes. We later returned to Kent and now happily live in the nearby village of Elham.

For the past ten years I have worked as a Social Media Manager and events organiser, and now do this for just a few hours each week. I have always wanted to be involved in the local community, and as organising and helping people are real passions of mine, I was delighted when the opportunity to work with Lyminge Parish Council came up.

I look forward to continuing to develop the Parish Council's Facebook and Instagram pages and supporting community projects in the future. And if I can help in any way, please do feel free to get in touch.



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

clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk  
debbie.capon@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk  
Handyman: fred@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk



# Neighbourhood Plan: Developing the Draft Policies

## Neighbourhood Plan:

Over the past few issues of the newsletter we have been presenting thoughts on some of the draft policies being developed for the Lyminge Parish Neighbourhood Plan. We provided a draft long list of sites being considered for potential designation as Local Green Spaces, in the December 2025 and January 2026 newsletter issues. In the February issue we provided a draft list of Locally Significant Views, and in the March issue we provided a draft list of natural features of the landscape that are particularly important for biodiversity, and also a draft list of priority species that are known to occur in the Parish, and that should be considered during decision-making within the Parish. We are still happy to receive feedback on these draft policies so please feel free to refer back to those previous newsletters and let us know any thoughts or suggestions as appropriate.

## Swift & Owl Nest Boxes in the Parish

The Parish Council has funded the purchase of a selection of swift, barn owl and tawny owl nest boxes to be placed in the Parish. Please see the February newsletter for more detail. Thanks to everyone who has provided feedback, really very much appreciated.

Based on the feedback received so far, it appears that swifts currently nest in and/or in the vicinity of the parish church. Therefore it has been suggested that good locations for placing the swift boxes are likely to be in this part of the Parish, i.e. on tall buildings in or around Church Road and the High

Street. Tawny owls have been reported to be widely distributed in wooded and lightly wooded areas of the Parish, and barn owls, while seemingly rarer than tawny owls, have been reported from various grassland areas. We think we have found some good locations to install the owl nest boxes, but please continue to provide any feedback or suggestions by email to [tony.king@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:tony.king@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk) or on our google form, available on <https://forms.gle/JbQczmtTiuA3ZrgH7> or by using the QR code.



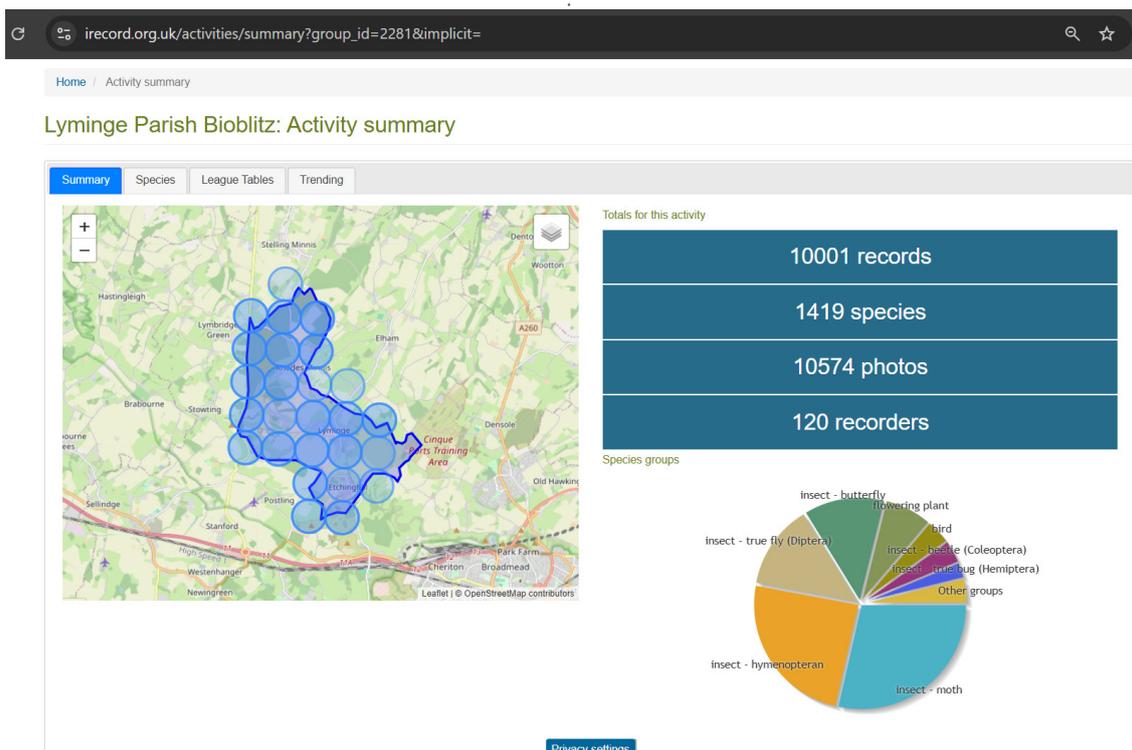
## Parish BioBlitz Landmark

We've made it to 10,000 observations on our Lyminge Parish bioblitz on iRecord! and are closing in on 1,500 different species reported within the Parish. Anyone and everyone can contribute observations, either directly using iRecord or by uploading photos to iNaturalist, which are then automatically imported to iRecord.

In fact our 10,000th record was of a fungus photographed by someone walking in Lyminge Forest and uploaded to iNaturalist. If you take wildlife photos with your phone then uploading them to iNaturalist is a brilliant way to add them to our collective biodiversity recording efforts.

If you would like to take a look at the data on iRecord just create an iRecord account, log in, then use this link to explore all the records submitted to far: <https://irecord.org.uk/join/lyminge-parish-bioblitz>

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# The Bowls Club, Lyminge

Free training sessions in  
April/May.

Every Sunday morning  
during May from

**10am - 12noon**

Free tuition and  
refreshments.

Just turn up and wear flat-  
soled shoes or trainers.

All other equipment  
provided.

**First session will  
commence on Sunday  
26 April at 10am and  
continues throughout May.**

If you'd like an informal  
chat beforehand, please  
telephone Terry our Coach

**07973 202 810**

# POSTLING VILLAGE OPEN GARDENS EXTRAVAGANZA

**6 & 7 JUNE 2026**

**BBQ - LOCAL SAUSAGES & BURGERS**

**HAVE-A-GO ARCHERY**

**CRAFT STALLS**

**HOMEMADE CAKES & TEA**

**PLANT STALLS**

**MEET THE LAMBS AND OTHER ANIMALS**



## LORD WHISKY ANIMAL SANCTUARY FUND

CHARITY NUMBER: 283483

**Spring Boot Fayre - Saturday 25th April 2026**

**8:00am - 4:00pm**

Join us for our first event of the year - our much-loved Spring Boot Fayre,  
packed with entertainment for all ages!

Enjoy a fantastic day out featuring:

- Canterbury Pipe Band
- Traditional Punch & Judy
- Classic Cars
- And much more!

We pride ourselves on creating enjoyable community events for everyone, so  
bring family and friends along for a great day.  
Get Involved!

We are always looking for volunteers and entertainers to help make our events  
even more special. If you would like to take part, please contact us:

📞 01303 862622 ✉ [lord.whisky@btinternet.com](mailto:lord.whisky@btinternet.com)



LYMINGE  
NEWSLETTER  
DELIVERER  
REQUIRED FOR  
PEENE

Please contact Richard  
on 01303 862015. See P36

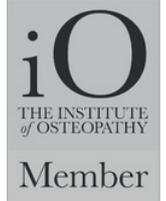
### Greenhouse

Free but you will need to  
dismantle and remove it.

Aluminium 6' x 8'.

Old but in good  
condition other than a  
couple of cracked panes.

Contact Heather on  
**07427 664084** or email  
[heather.dunford@  
gmail.com](mailto:heather.dunford@gmail.com)



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Contact us to book your appointment today!

[www.AKHealthcare.org.uk](http://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

**Minutes Secretary:** Sally Robinson **E** sallyrocks.1955@yahoo.co.uk

**Treasurer:** Janet Fry 01303 863177 **E** janet@rhodesminnis.org.uk

**Committee Members:** Peter Barnes (deputy chair), Martine Alyson, Marian Chubb, Richard Chubb, Stephen Guyatt, Gillian Heywood, Dennis Huntley, Robin Mackonochie, Derek Smith, Penny Stephens, Bernie Wood, Martin Wood

**Newsletter:** Peter Barnes 07808 775302 **E** pbarnes20@icloud.com

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# Community Hall Details

## LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL

REGISTERED CHARITY.281465



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**EMAIL:** [admin@lymingevillagehall.org.uk](mailto:admin@lymingevillagehall.org.uk)  
**INFO:** 07547 545601

Full pricing can be found on our website. Guideline prices:  
Main Hall hire: £88.40 (Fri/Sat evenings)  
£47.60 (Sat/Sun morning or afternoon)

Find us on Facebook

## VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH, LYMINGE AND TAYNE CENTRE

Church Seating	Max 150	£22 per hour
Clayson Hall (with Stage) Seating	Max 150	£16.50 per hour
Rigden Room Seating	Max 35	£11 per hour
Wesley Room Seating	Max 15	£11 per hour

All rooms have use of kitchen, toilets and disabled toilet. With the exception of Wesley room, all rooms are disabled-friendly and accessible.



**Contact: 07716 521405 or [taynecentre@outlook.com](mailto:taynecentre@outlook.com)**

### Lyminge Library Opening Times

Monday	10am - 2pm
Tuesday	10am - 1pm, 2pm-5pm
Wednesday	10am - 2pm
Thursday	10am - 1pm, 2pm - 5pm
Friday	10am - 2pm
Saturday	9am - 1pm

Tel: 03000413131 [lymingelibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto:lymingelibrary@kent.gov.uk)

## ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL

The next time you are thinking of holding a function why not try Etchinghill Village Hall, which holds the highest Hallmark accreditation level (Hallmark 3), with its excellent facilities, including ample parking space.

The standard hire charge for the main hall and kitchen are:

ANY DAY OF THE WEEK ANY TIME £15 PER HOUR  
No winter supplements. No extra charges.  
Ideal for family parties and get togethers.

The use of a separate Committee Room is also available.

For all bookings or enquiries please contact:

**The Duty Manager on 07514 758936**

## RHODES MINNIS VILLAGE HALL

CHARITY NO.800345

Rhodes Minnis Village Hall is located 2kms (1¼miles) from Lyminge and just off Longage Hill and Whitehorse Lane in Chapel Lane.

The hall is ideal for children's parties, band practice, quizzes, meetings, wedding receptions, fundraising events and much more. It has a fully equipped kitchen and baby changing facilities.

### Rates

Mon to Fri	£18 per session £48 all day
Sat & Sun	£23 per session £33 for evening session and £69 all day

### Sessions

AM session	08.30 - 12.30
PM session	13.30 - 17.30
Evening session	18.00 - 23.45
Separate rates for Bank Holidays and New Year and special rates for regular users.	

**For all bookings and enquiries please contact:**

Mick & Dorothy Athow: 01303 862616  
Email: [booking-rmvh@outlook.com](mailto:booking-rmvh@outlook.com)



## Lylinge Baby & Toddler Group

We are excited to welcome you to our local parent, baby and toddler group.

Please come along, meet new mums and dads for a chat and a play.

It costs £3.50 with tea and coffee provided along with snacks for your child.

**Tuesdays, term times only.**

**10am to 12noon at the Tayne Centre**

First session is free

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

Contact Ellen at 07870 405567

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## Etchinghill Baby & Toddler GROUP

10.15-11.30am every Wednesday

(term time only)

at Etchinghill Village Hall

£3 per child

Come along to Etchinghill's Parent and Toddler group welcoming all pre-school children. We have plenty of toys and snacks for the little ones, and there is always tea, coffee and cakes for the adults.

For further information call Ruth on 07817 777975, or look at Parent and Child Etchinghill Facebook page.



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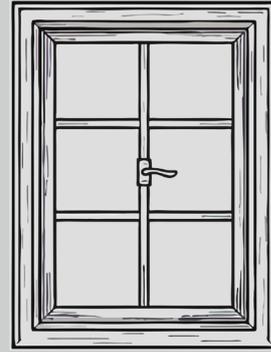
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Email: [info@akhealthcare.org.uk](mailto:info@akhealthcare.org.uk)  
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## LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026

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**LYMINGE SPRING GARAGE SALE - 11 APRIL 2026**

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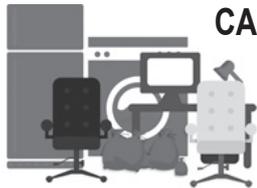
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Etchinghill residents, together with many others from the Parish and beyond, filled The Gatekeeper on Sunday 1st March to mark the retirement of Helen and Eric (See P7).



## Elham Open Gardens

**Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 June**

**12 pm – 4.30 pm**

Just two months to go to the very popular Elham Open Gardens weekend, this year taking place on Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June, from 12pm to 4.30pm both days.

Elham Gardening Society is once again linking with The National Garden Scheme to open nine delightful gardens. For returning visitors, there is the joy of discovering two gardens not previously open, and revisiting others to see how they have changed and evolved over the past two years.

New and returning visitors will be delighted to discover a wide range of styles and sizes, all within walking distance around Elham. While some gardens are well established but continue to evolve, the two newer gardens will show how planting can emerge and grow through time and stages of development. Visitors will also see how members of Elham's thriving Gardening Society are responding to climate change and are mindful of wildlife and conservation.

Visitors can vote for the 'People's Choice' garden, with the winner receiving the prestigious National Garden Scheme Challenge Trowel Trophy.

The picturesque Old Vicarage Garden will be a must visit, not just for the garden, but for the delicious teas and homemade cakes and well stocked plant stall.

Ticket sales benefit medical and community projects supported by The National Garden Scheme.

### Elham Food & Craft Festival

On the Sunday visitors can also indulge in a little shopping at the summer Elham Food & Craft Festival in Elham Square and Church, from 11am to 2pm. With local food and other goodies being sold in the Square, and craft and artisan stalls packing the church, plus refreshments available from the Chancel Café, this market is a highlight in the Elham calendar.

**Carole Kincaid, Elham Open Gardens**



Lyminge Friends enjoyed a very interesting and detailed talk by David Tadd on *"The Forensic Investigation of Homicide"*.



Sojan Joseph holding a community meeting at the Coach & Horses in March (See P4)



## LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

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



The basic components of these two views have hardly changed in the sixty years that separates them. The postcard on the left dates to the mid 1960s. The pub, the church and Well Cottages are all very little changed since it was taken, though the tree cover is different with some new trees and others gone.

The biggest change to have occurred is in the way this ground is used. If you look carefully at the postcard, you can see grazing sheep, and that is because this was still a meadow in the 1960s. Until a few years after this, there was still much farmland right in the heart of the village. Though we can see from the caption on the postcard that this area, like now, was known as Tayne Field in the 1960s, a hundred and twenty years previously the Tithe Survey shows that this was Coach Meadow, probably taking its name from the pub, which is much older than the current building (see Lyminge Then & Now Dec 2024). Tayne Field then lay further

north, now largely occupied by the school.

Tayne Field, as we now call it, was saved by the Parish Council for the village as a recreation space shortly after the picture on the left was taken. So we no longer see sheep on the field, but we do have a children's playground, that was renewed and expanded in 2023 thanks to a partnership between Lyminge Youth Action and the Parish Council. We can be grateful that this has been grass meadow for so long as this also ensured that the precious archaeology just below the turf was preserved, allowing us to see in the digs of 2012-15 that 1,400 years ago, this was the centre of a royal estate with large timber-framed halls. As recreation space, this is still at the heart of our community, and appropriately the tradition of eating and drinking that began in these halls is continued in the pub, though perhaps on a smaller scale than the feasts of the Kentish kings of the 6th and 7th Centuries.

### Two Dog-Related Educational Events

Bookings now being taken for the following educational events:

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**CANINE FIRST AID** £40  
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