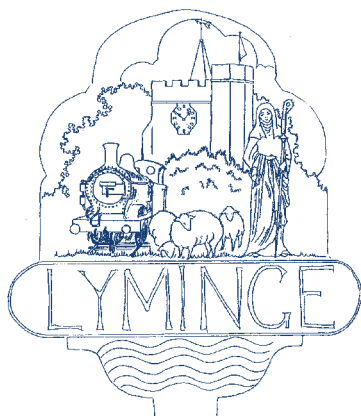




THE LYMINGE NEWSLETTER

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

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

From The Lyminge Association

NOVEMBER 2026

The Lyminge Association
CHRISTMAS TREE SWITCH-ON
Thursday 26th November 2026

- 4.40pm**
Assemble in the Car Park by the Library.
- 4.45pm**
Carols from Lyminge Primary School Choir.
- 5.00pm**
Father Christmas switches on the lights.

Mulled wine and mince pies.
Hot chocolate provided by
The Country Cabin
Available from 4:45pm onwards outside the Library.

THE POSTER SAYS IT ALL:

Adults and children (with torches) are encouraged to arrive at 4:40pm (no earlier please).

This year, we again have *The Lyminge Primary Stage Stars* to lead the carol singing prior to the switching on of the lights by Santa at 5pm. We will look to providing the customary mince pies, mulled wine and soft drinks.

~~~~~

**Christmas Present Delivery Service - see P3**



## Welcome Darren and Gemma, new owners of *Country Cabin*

We're Gemma and Darren Best, and we're delighted to introduce ourselves as the proud new owners of Country Cabin!

Having established our bespoke private dining business, Shepherd's Table, we felt the time was right for a new challenge – creating a place of our own where people can enjoy good food, great coffee and a warm welcome in cosy surroundings.

Our journey in hospitality began over 20 years ago when we first met working in the industry. Since then, our passion for food and hospitality has continued to grow, with Darren's culinary skills at the heart of everything we do.

At Country Cabin, we serve delicious breakfasts and lunches from Tuesday to Saturday, with a focus on good food, friendly faces and making everyone feel at home.

We're also planning a range of pop-up events for the New Year, so keep an eye out for what's coming!

We look forward to welcoming you to Country Cabin.



# Margaret Saunder's Meanderings

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

## November

October nudges into November and the mornings become cooler with mist lying low along the valley. Although no rain has fallen overnight, drips hang from every leaf and twig in the melancholy air. Cobwebs brush my face and hair as I walk, filling pockets in the grass with their dew-laden threads. Later in the month, frost lodges in the same pockets, the last to melt as the day progresses.

Smells of damp and decay fill the mild still air as I walk along footpaths, enclosed by trees whose leaves are beginning to cover the ground, unseasonably warm days aiding the process of the death of foliage in order to provide new life next Spring. Footpaths have been freshly forged across newly ploughed fields, each year taking a slightly different wandering route. Yellow leaves top a tall hedgerow like the dying flames of a fire. Yellow also features in dandelions, buttercups and ragwort, all remaining in flower late in the season. Nasturtiums provide a pop of colour as they trail over a hedgerow. Unbelievably I see the tops of daffodil leaves, pushing up half an inch above the soil amongst the grass and fallen leaves in the footpath which runs from Skeete Road through to Woodland Road. It is the first of November and these bulbs should be dormant under the surface, waiting

for the warmth of early Spring to trigger their above-ground growth. Recent temperatures have been seven degrees above the normal average for this time of year and there is plenty of evidence that this is upsetting nature's balance.

A tic tic tells me that a wren is alarmed by my presence - a loud sound for such a small bird! Standing still, I wait to see if it emerges from the vegetation by the

side of the footpath. It flits to a fence post where I have a good view: small, round and brown, with its tail standing upright, almost vertical to its body. I am old enough to fondly remember the farthing coin which bore its image. Drips form along the washing line and hang from twigs, railings and gateposts, catching and reflecting what little light is available. On this very wet and dull morning, they provide the only sparkle. Walking along a narrow track I gather greenery and berries to make a wreath. As I cut pieces of conifer, the air suddenly fills with the sweet perfume of pine sap. Trailing ivy together with its berries are collected as are rosehips, old man's beard and various shapes, sizes and colours of seedheads. Pale green lichen-covered twigs and sprigs of larch cones complete my collection. Fallen beech leaves of

orange, yellow and rust bring brightness even on the dulllest of days. Beeches thrive on chalk soils giving us an abundance of Autumn glory along our valley and surrounding areas.

November is a time of remembrance with All Soul's at the beginning of the month and a little later, Armistice Day on the eleventh. Bright red poppies bring a burst of welcome colour with garlands of crocheted poppies draped on the neat beech hedge behind the Elham War Memorial and at either end of each village along the Valley, the tributes to the fallen sit alongside the village name.

It is now mid November and the temperatures are finally falling, with snow in some parts of the country causing schools to close. Frost has appeared for the first time this Autumn and the days are shortening noticeably. Two days of sunshine lift my spirits.

The village pond has begun to fill with water after having dried out during the Summer months and its



shallow water is covered with ice - long straight shards stretch across its surface. However, before long, the temperatures swing back up, bringing rain. Rainwater gushes down Brady Road past the bus stop at Yew Tree Cross where I am waiting for a bus to Canterbury. The torrent carries fallen leaves that hurry past, then catch on a collection of others, so beginning to form a dam which suddenly gives way under the mass of water and they all move off, racing round the corner towards Sibton Park. Large drops fall from the trees and plop and splash into the swirling current, each drop causing a momentary ripple before being carried away. Storm Bert blows in across Britain at the end of November bringing snow to the north of the country and rain to the south. Trees roar around me as I take a walk before the rain sets in - trees will be stripped of their remaining leaves and there will be trees down before the end of the weekend. The strong wind sends leaves scurrying along the roads and pavements. It will leave a more wintry look to the countryside as November moves towards December.



# Church Services

## Valley Methodist Church

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

| LYMINGE       |         |                                                         |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Date          | Time    | Event                                                   |
| 1st November  | 10.15am | Rhodes Minnis - Valley Service – Rev Gill Songer        |
| 8th November  | 10.45am | Remembrance Sunday - War Memorial then Parish Church    |
| 15th November | 11.00am | Mr Tim James                                            |
| 22nd November | 10.15am | Valley Service – Rev Gill Songer (Holy Communion)       |
| 29th November | 10.30am | St. Andrew's, Cheriton: Advent Sunday - Rev Gill Songer |

| RHODES MINNIS |         |                                                            |
|---------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Date          | Time    | Event                                                      |
| 1st November  | 10.15am | Valley Service at Rhodes Minnis Rev Gill Songer            |
| 8th November  | 10.45am | Join War Memorial Service at Lyminge (or Elham 9.30am)     |
| 15th November | 9.30am  | United Service at Rhodes Minnis                            |
| 22nd November | 10.15am | Valley Service, Lyminge - Rev Gill Songer (Holy Communion) |
| 29th November | 10.30am | Café Church at St Andrews                                  |

## St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

| Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Location     | Time    | Event                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Stanford     | 9.30am  | All Saints Patronal Service - Revd Stephen Dougal                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lyminge      | 10am    | WOW (Ways of Worship)                                                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lyminge      | 3pm     | Mike Chinneck and the Worship Team                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Paddlesworth | 4pm     | All Souls Service                                                     |
| 8th November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Lyminge      | 10.45am | Evensong - Paul Sharman                                               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lyminge      | 10.45am | Remembrance Service - War Memorial then Parish Church - Diana Baldwin |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Paddlesworth | 10.50am | Remembrance Service - Paul Sharman                                    |
| 15th November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lyminge      | 6pm     | Sung Evensong - Diana Baldwin                                         |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lyminge      | 10am    | Sung Eucharist- Revd Stephen Dougal                                   |
| 22nd November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lyminge      | 10am    | Family Praise Service - Katherine Goody and Team                      |
| 29th November                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lyminge      | 8am     | Said Communion Revd. Sharon Paine                                     |
| 29th November - 11am Advent at the Cathedral<br>For weddings and baptisms, please contact the Benefice Secretary, Alison Dale, at <a href="mailto:beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk">beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk</a><br>Further information can be found from the Church Wardens:<br>Lyle Arnold 07905 438357 or Mike Chinneck 01303 863911 |              |         |                                                                       |

## Christmas Present Delivery Service

It goes without saying that the ever popular

### Christmas Present Delivery Service

will take place this year on **Monday 21st December.**

Santa and his elves will be in attendance to give that special bit of excitement lighting up the faces of young children.

Further details will be available in next month's edition of the Newsletter including when and where you can leave your gifts for delivery.

Any presents for children, adults and even pets, can be delivered by Santa for a small charge of **£2 per address.**

See you next month

*Santa*



## Lyminge Newsletter

### TERMS & CONDITIONS:

**Copy deadline for next edition - 18 November 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.

If you do not have email, please phone the editor - 07808775302.

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)







## "Principles of Garden Design/Colour Theory"

### A talk by Caroline Halfpenny

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November**  
**The Tayne Centre, Lyminge**  
**Refreshments from 7:15pm**  
**Talk starts 7:30pm**

**Non-Members very welcome**  
**£5 entry including refreshments**





*For more information about the Gardeners' Society*  
 email:  
[lymingegardeners@gmail.com](mailto:lymingegardeners@gmail.com)  
 or call  
 Anne on 07703 149 008

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## Fifth Trust update



**the fifth trust**  
supporting adults with learning disabilities

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

There's something truly special about harvest day at Elham Valley Vineyard. The site comes alive with activity and there's plenty of laughter and anticipation as months of hard work finally come together. But these are more than just grapes. They represent inclusive opportunities for the people we support. The quality of this year's grapes has been excellent, adding to the excitement surrounding the harvest. We're particularly looking forward to seeing what they produce, as we hope this year's crop will go on to create a brand-new Sparkling Cuvée, due for release in 2028.

If you can't wait that long, come to our **Christmas Craft Fair** at the **Valley Vineyard** on **Saturday 5th December**, which will have plenty of wine to try and all the usual Christmas goodies and food.



# TOCCATA & TREATS

## *A Candlelit Soirée*

✦ SATURDAY 14 NOVEMBER ✦

✦ 7.00pm ✦

**ST MARY'S CHURCH**  
THE SQUARE, ELHAM

*Inspirational organ music in a magical setting played by*  
**Anthony Trinkwon**

✦ WELCOME DRINK • CANAPÉS • BAR ✦

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✦ Raising funds for future FoSM projects ✦

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**ELHAM LONDIS**  
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# 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).

## ONE-OFF EVENTS

| Day                  | Time          | Event                                                          | Where                     | Tel. No.          |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 7th November         | 9.30am        | Friends of The Nailbourne                                      | TC                        |                   |
| 14th November        | 7pm           | Toccata & Treats                                               | SMCH                      |                   |
| 17th November        | 7pm           | People's Emergency Briefing                                    | ELVH                      |                   |
| <b>26th November</b> | <b>4.45pm</b> | <b>Switch on Lyminge Lights</b>                                | <b>LL</b>                 | See P1            |
| 28th November        | 10am          | RM Cat Sanctuary Christmas Fair                                | Hawkinge Community Centre |                   |
| 29th November        | 4pm           | Christmas tree lighting up                                     | EVH                       |                   |
| 1st December         |               | Mount Pleasant Close Christmas lights                          |                           | Until 5th January |
| 5th December         | 7pm           | The Big Fat Christmas Quiz                                     | EVH                       |                   |
| 6th December         | 6.30pm        | ERA AGM                                                        | EVH                       |                   |
| 12th December        | 10am          | Winter Arts and Craft Fair                                     | LVH                       |                   |
| 12th December        |               | Christmas Market Trip                                          | EVH                       |                   |
| <b>21st December</b> |               | <b>Christmas Present Delivery</b>                              |                           |                   |
| <b>2027</b>          |               | <b>Please let us have your dates of events in the New Year</b> |                           |                   |

## MONTHLY EVENTS

| Date                  | Time    | Event                    | Where | Tel. No.     |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------------------|-------|--------------|
| 1st Mon               | 10am    | Stroke Support Group     | C&H   | 07903150099  |
| 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 | LPC   | 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 |
| 2nd Tues              | 7pm     | Parish Council Meeting   | LVH   | 07999 403948 |
| 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  |
| 1st Wed               | 7pm     | Open Mic Night           | C&H   | 01303901403  |
| 2nd Wed               | 7pm     | Bingo                    | C&H   | 01303901403  |
| 3rd Wed               | 7pm     | Quiz                     | C&H   | 01303901403  |
| 4th Wed               | 2.30pm  | RM Circle                | RVH   | 864256       |
| 4th Wed               | 7.30pm  | Music Bingo              | C&H   | 01303901403  |
| 2nd Sat               | 10am    | Postling 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        | 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                | Gatekeeper |               |
| 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        |               |

<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   <sup>6</sup> 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; **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



**COACH AND HORSES**  
LYMINGE • CT18 8JA

Great Beer  
Live Music  
Good Food  
A Warm Welcome!

**NOVEMBER 2026 - WHAT'S ON!**  
Live Music • Bingo • Quiz Nights • Raffles

|            |                                                                            |                  |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| SAT 7 NOV  | Three Shades of Grey – Live music                                          | 9 – 11 pm        |
| WED 11 NOV | Bingo Night – Cash prizes with large jackpots!                             | 7:30 pm          |
| FRI 13 NOV | Keg Raffle – We start at 7 pm, to be drawn at 8 pm                         | 7 pm (draw 8 pm) |
| SAT 14 NOV | The Marcellas – Live music featuring ABBA songs and more hits              | 7:30 pm          |
| WED 18 NOV | Quiz Night – Cash prize to be won!                                         | 7:30 pm          |
| SAT 21 NOV | Sara the Sign Artist – Live music from a local lady from the Valley        | TBC              |
| WED 25 NOV | Music Bingo – Cash prizes to be won!                                       | 7:30 pm          |
| FRI 27 NOV | Jay Walkers – Live music playing all your favourite tunes                  | 7:30 pm          |
| SAT 28 NOV | Open Mic Night – A three-piece live band for you to sing or play along to! | 7:30 pm          |

**FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR!**  
Every Friday 5 – 6 pm  
SELECTED LINES FROM £4

**OAP MEALS FOR OVER 65s**  
Monday to Friday 12:30 – 3:30 pm  
Available from £12 a main meal

**TRADITIONAL SUNDAY ROAST DINNERS**  
Every Sunday 12:30 – 6 pm  
Beef, turkey, pork  
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All the trimmings  
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**FOOD SERVED ALL DAY**  
Full menu • Lunch specials  
Pizzas • Light bites

Dartboard Available • Pool Table Available • Dog Friendly • Family Friendly • sky sports on two screens Come and watch the game!

**01303 901403** Booking advisable for all events.

**Pilgrims Hospices**  
**Christmas Fair**

Sponsored by **ultima**

Entry £3 • Children free  
Father Christmas visit £5 per child  
Stalls & games • Food • Grand prize draw  
Children's crafts • Music

New for 2026  
Visit our Frozen Princess £3

**Saturday 21st November 2026**  
**11am – 4pm**

PGL Beyond, Grosvenor Hall, Kennington, TN25 4AJ

Pilgrims Hospices in east Kent is a company limited by guarantee.  
Registered charity number: 293968.  
Registered company number: 2000560.  
Registered office: 56 London Road, Canterbury, Kent CT2 8JA

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[info@burnettsfishandchips.co.uk](mailto:info@burnettsfishandchips.co.uk)

# Etchinghill update

## - November 2026

### **ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)**

For enquiries: Chairman: Victoria Couper-Samways - 07702 625474  
email: vickie.couper@icloud.com Website: [www.etchinghill.info](http://www.etchinghill.info)  
f Etchinghill Residents Association

#### **FILM NIGHT – ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL – MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER – DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR A 7.30 START – 'MAMMA MIA' 2008 (PG) Run time: 1hr 48mins.**

Dressing up and dancing in the aisles is encouraged!

Independent hotelier Donna is preparing for her daughter's wedding with the help of two old friends. Meanwhile bride-to-be Sophie invites three men from her mother's past in order to discern which is her biological father.

**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 raffle. New members are welcome, simply register and pay on the night, there's no need to book.**

#### **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS-ON EVENT! – SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 4.45pm – MERIDEN WALK, MERIDEN PARK ETCHINGHILL**

Meet by the large Christmas Tree at Meriden Walk, where the lights will be switched on at 4.45pm. Afterwards, please walk up to the village hall and join us for complimentary festive food and drink. This year we are delighted, once again, to welcome back the Shepway Brass Academy youth band, who will play seasonal music and accompany our carol singing.

#### **ERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER – ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL**

Doors open at 6.45pm for a 7pm start. After the brief formalities, you can vote for the committee members of your choice going into 2027. There will be the opportunity to air your views and help make a difference

and shape the future of our community during the Open Forum.

#### **A REMINDER TO RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO WESTFIELD LANE.**

The farmer has requested that the gateway area at the bottom of the BT road opposite the entrance to Westfield Heights be **KEPT CLEAR OF VEHICLES AT ALL TIMES.** Regular, immediate access to the field will be required for very large machinery.

#### **ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL** (Charity 302736)

Chairman: John White  
f Etchinghill Village Hall Kent

#### **Bookings:**

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

**'BODY AWARENESS AND SOUND BATH HOUR' - SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER** - To be held in the early evening, this trial event and can be booked on the following website [www.elizabethnaomi.com](http://www.elizabethnaomi.com). Slots are £10 each and if this goes well, we will look at a regular booking.

**BIG FAT CHRISTMAS QUIZ – SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 7pm – ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL.** £5 per person to include crackers and mince pies. Tables are already being booked, so don't miss out on a fun way to start the lead up to Christmas. Phone the Village Hall number and reserve your table.



**A gentle reminder** that our car park is available for Rambling/Walking Groups for a donation please. The village hall is a charity and all costs must be met to keep everything in good order for our users. Please telephone the Duty Manager to see if space is available on the day you wish as some booked parties require the use of the whole car park. Thank you.

**News contact: Karen Hickman**  
– 07521 372477 or email:  
[kdhickman@me.com](mailto:kdhickman@me.com)

### **ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **Film Night**

**MONDAY 16th November**

**"MAMMA MIA"**

PG - Run Time: 1hr 48mins.

Etchinghill Village Hall - 7 for 7.30pm

Entrance Fee £6pp

Open to new and existing members  
Free Refreshments and Raffle

[www.etchinghill.info](http://www.etchinghill.info)



# District Councillors' updates

## November 2026

**Otterpool Park LLP**, working in collaboration with Homes England, has submitted updated information to the District Council as part of the current outline planning application. The updated information reflects a number of minor changes and updates that were presented to the community in June. It also brings the application into line with the latest National Planning Policy Framework and other relevant legislation. The updates include additional flexibility to support the early delivery of new homes at Hillhurst Green, following further land acquisition by Homes England earlier this year. Details of the planning process and links to the planning documents can be found here [Otterpool Park outline planning application – Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#). The Head of Planning has confirmed to me that this updated planning application will go to the Planning Committee.

**New Local Plan** - A Local Plan guides decisions about where new homes, employment space and community facilities should be developed, while helping to protect the environment and respond to climate change. More information is available at [Folkestone and Hythe Local Plan 2045](#). There will be further public consultation in 2027 once a draft is prepared. I have a Planning Policy Steering Group Meeting on 20 October and will be able to report further on this next month.

**Cost of Living Support** - The Cost of Living and Health Event will take place on Monday 2 November 2026 between 10.30am and 3pm at Hub on the Beach in Greatstone (TN28 8NR). Organised by the council's community safety team, the event will bring together a range of local organisations to offer guidance on staying safe, healthy and financially secure. There are several schemes to help residents finding the rising cost of living challenging. Visit [Help and support with the cost of living – Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

**My Account** – please do sign up to this, if you have not already done so. It is an easy way of reporting issues and looking up information. Just go to [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) and click on 'My Account'.

**26/1479/FH** - Land North of Homestead, Woodland Road, Lyminge – for residents information, whilst a planning application has now been submitted seeking to regularise the development, the works that have been carried out remain unauthorised and planning permission has not been granted.

Contact: [jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

The latest edition of **Your District Today** magazine, can be found online and a print edition is being delivered across the district from this week. The free publication celebrates the successful opening of the new Lower Leas

Coastal Park play area and the magazine also has updates on local well-being initiatives, and the UNESCO geopark application.

Kent County Council (KCC) is asking residents to help **secure the return of international rail services** to Ashford and Ebbsfleet by taking part in a survey: International trains have not stopped in Kent since 2020 when Eurostar withdrew services from Ashford and Ebbsfleet leaving communities disconnected. The short survey can be found at <https://bringbackeurotrains.com/campaigns/register-your-demand/> and may help the campaign to bring international rail services back to Kent.

**Spot the Scam** – an event is being held on Friday 6 November from 10.30am to 3pm at Age UK, Sandford House, Stade Street, Hythe, CT21 6BD. The event, organised by the council's Community Safety team, will offer practical advice and support for anyone who wants to learn more about recognising scams and protecting their personal information from scammers.

We held a very well attended and informative **North Downs Forum** meeting in a beautiful setting around a campfire at Knowler Farm in Stelling Minnis. Amongst the topics we discussed were the Friends of Nailborne group who have organised a training session by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership for Riverfly Monitors that will be taking place at the Tayne Centre on Saturday 7th November. We also talked about the North Downs Patchwork Farm project whose aim is to connect grower and growing spaces, to share seeds and produce and encourage people who are interested in food growing. The issues of the reduction of services of the Number 17 Bus route were also raised. Your local MP Sojan Joseph wants to launch a local petition to demonstrate public interest and is keen to support the campaign in Parliament. The next meeting of the North Downs Forum is in Hawkinge Community on 12th November at 7pm

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

## Thank you!

To everyone that kindly contributed and supported **LYMINGE LIBRARY'S COFFEE MORNING**.

Together we raised a fantastic  
£400.00 for Macmillan Cancer Support





## 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 each month  
on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays  
between 10:00am and Noon  
at The Coach & Horses, Lyminge**

**Our next meetings are on:  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November**

***New faces very welcome  
(please ring to check for any  
change of venue)***

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 - 07846 177 409  
HEATHER - 07427 664 084

Hythe, Lyminge  
& Ashford

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Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford

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Christmas Bric a Brac | Christmas Decorations | Christmas Clothing | Sweet Treats & Cakes | Raffle

**Age UK, Hythe Community  
Support Hub**  
Sanford House, Stade Street,  
Hythe, CT21 6BD

**Saturday 28th November 2026  
10.00am – 2.00pm**

Charity Number: 1125274 | Company Number: 6589817 | [www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford)

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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£20 deposit payable  
Collection 23 Dec

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CHARITY NO: 283483

### CHRISTMAS APPEAL

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US  
LOOK AFTER THE MANY ANIMALS IN OUR CARE.  
THIS CHRISTMAS, WE'RE HOPING YOU'LL BE ABLE TO  
GIVE A DONATION HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL.

DONATE VIA OUR WEBSITE, OR CALL 01303 862622.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE SEND  
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CALL US ON 01303 862622 OR EMAIL  
[LORD.WHISKY@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:LORD.WHISKY@BTINTERNET.COM)

PARK HOUSE STELLING MINNIS KENT CT4 6AN



Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford  
**ageUK**

*Fundraiser*  
in support of  
Age UK Hythe, Lyminge  
and Ashford

# Wreathmaking workshops

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

**Thursday, 10th December 2026**  
6.45pm for 7.00pm start

**Friday, 11th December 2026**  
1.15pm for 1.30pm start

This workshop includes all the materials you'll need to create a handmade masterpiece, (welcome to bring some of your own items too) as well as a mince pie and a cup of mulled wine, tea, or coffee!

**Booking essential**

Please call the office on **01303 269602** or drop in to reserve your place.

**£27.50 per person**

Charity Number: 1125274 | Company Number: 6589817 | [www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford)

Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford  
**ageUK**

## HERE TO HELP

### Information & Advice

**Drop-in sessions**

Free, confidential guidance

**Every second Monday of the month**  
**10am - 1pm**

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

**Support for life in later years**  
Advice about benefits, services and other issues affecting later life? Our friendly team can help with:

- Benefit checks** - find out what you may be entitled to
- Blue Badge applications
- Local community resources
- Health & wellbeing services

**No appointment needed - just drop in**  
Call 01303 269602 for more information

Registered charity 1125274 | Company 6589817 Age UK Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford

10

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 26TH NOVEMBER (SEE P1)

# Your Local Pharmacy

*Lyminge Pharmacy*

- NHS & Private Prescriptions
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- Weight Loss Clinic
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Delivering prescriptions to the local community of Lyminge, Elham, Etchinghill, Postling, Hythe, Rhodes Minnis, Stelling Minnis and the surrounding areas.

Ask a member of staff to learn more

Contact us at  
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EMAIL: [lymingeinformed@gmail.com](mailto:lymingeinformed@gmail.com)

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

**NHS**



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 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)

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 26TH NOVEMBER (SEE P1)

### Discover The Joy of Singing with our Welcoming Community Group!

Thanks to generous Lottery funding, our weekly sessions are completely free to attend, making music accessible to everyone.

We meet **every Wednesday during term time** from **11.30am to 12.30pm** in the **Methodist Church**. See P15.

You do not need to read music to join us. All voices are welcome, whether you are a seasoned singer or just love to sing in the shower. It is completely wheelchair accessible.

We explore a wonderful variety of music using different song books, including a special collection filled with our favourite songs and personal requests. Our excellent teachers guide us through every step, starting with fun vocal warm-ups where we often pull funny faces and share a laugh.

Our singing is supported by brilliant musical accompaniment; each session is filled with energy.

Come and experience the mood-lifting effect, a sense of community spirit with joyous singing for an hour.

**We look forward to seeing you.**



### A Bug-tastic Donation from 1st Lyminge Scouts Squirrels!

The **1st Lyminge Scouts Squirrel Drey** have been busy local community helpers. They have recently built and donated a bug hotel to Lyminge Library. The Squirrels collected all the materials themselves before working together to build a cosy new home for the local creepy crawlies.

You can spot their handiwork in the library garden!

**Fancy joining the fun?** The Squirrel Drey is run entirely by volunteers, and they would love some extra helping hands! You don't need to be a parent or have a child in Scouts to get involved. **If you can spare 1.5 hours on a Wednesday evening, please get in touch on [1stlyminge@gmail.com](mailto:1stlyminge@gmail.com)** and one of the Squirrel team will get back to you.





## BALLROOM & LATIN DANCING

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

### Etchinghill Village Hall

**Join us from 5th November 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.  
Have FUN, 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](mailto:lynn.chapman0127@btinternet.com)

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



## A Hive of Hogbens

Anyone who has looked at the gravestones in Lyminge Parish churchyard will know that a lot of Hogbens have lived in Lyminge over the years. In fact the very earliest we know about is Thomas Hogben whose daughter Joane appears as the fifth entry in the very first baptism register in 1544. Another baptism, David, son of Stephen Hogben appears 15 entries later in the same year.

In 2025, Rob Baldwin, as Chair of Lyminge Historical Society, was contacted by Stephen Hogben, a direct descendant of the Stephen Hogben just mentioned, with a query about his family. Stephen himself has never lived in Lyminge, but his great grandfather farmed Great Shuttlesfield and that is where his grandfather was born. Later, his great grandfather retired to live at Lumeah in Church Road, now called Ashton Lodge, which had been built by his brother Richard on land he had sold off from his farm. Richard Hogben ran his farm from Robus House, now set back from Silverlands Road near the junction with Canterbury Road. The entire history of the Hogbens in Lyminge has been written up by Stephen Hogben in a booklet that he has entitled 'A Hive of Hogbens'. It is available to view at Lyminge Library.

In conversation with Stephen, Rob discovered that the vast research he had carried out into his family over many, many decades, including many copies of documents and family photographs, was looking for a home. He is now 90 years old, and feels he has researched the family so far as it is possible. But his family are unable to offer space to all the paperwork. So last month, Rob and his wife Diana travelled up to Duns in the Scottish Borders to collect the Hogben Papers. The whole collection will now be preserved as part of the Lyminge Archive, which is looked after by the Lyminge Historical Society on behalf of the whole community.

## Antiquarian Books Wanted

[no paperbacks or annuals please]

Call Jonathan on

07545 043065

or email

[louis88books@gmail.com](mailto:louis88books@gmail.com)

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**Over 35 years experience**

## Lord Whisky Tea Rooms

Opening Times 10.00 – 16.00  
Breakfast 10.00 – 11.45 Lunch 12.00 – 14.45

### Christmas Menu

28<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – 24<sup>th</sup> December 2026

#### Starters

Prawn Cocktail  
Breaded Brie Bites  
Tomato & Basil Soup

#### Main Courses

Traditional Roast Turkey  
Roast Beef  
Festive Nut Roast  
Beetroot Wellington  
*Main courses are served with all the trimmings.*

#### Desserts

Traditional Christmas Pudding  
Mince Pies  
Sherry Trifle  
*Served with your choice of custard, brandy sauce, cream or ice cream.*

Two courses: £30.00 Three courses: £35.00

#### Christmas Day

Will include complimentary drink, mince pies and tea or coffee.  
Opening Hours: 11.00am until 16:00pm

#### Bookings Only

Two courses: £50.00 Three courses: £60.00  
Please complete a Christmas Menu Booking Form for full details.  
Forms are available from a member of staff.

**A £20.00 deposit per person is required.**  
Christmas bookings:  
[lord.whisky@btinternet.com](mailto:lord.whisky@btinternet.com)  
Tel: 01303 862622/862349

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 26TH NOVEMBER (SEE P1)

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# LOGS

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Happier  
Days!*



**Purple Net Bags**  
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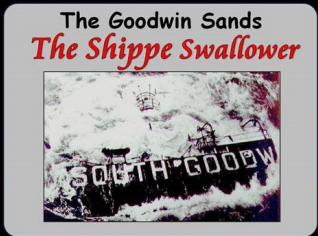
*Local Logs  
Local Support*



## Lyminge Historical Society

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm  
Tuesday 3 November 2026  
The Tayne Centre, Church Road, Lyminge CT18 8JA

**The Goodwin Sands:  
The Shippe Swallower  
John Buss**



**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

Our monthly meetings for 2026 will end with:  
**1st December:** Mystery and make-believe: a miscellany of things you (probably) never knew about Lyminge Parish Church - Rob Baldwin (following the AGM).  
The society will take its usual winter break in January and February 2027.



# Lyminge Community Hub CIC

## Everist Court Planning Application – Update

The decision on the planning application (26/1203/FH) to change the use of Everist Court (formerly Age UK) from a community building to housing has been postponed until **6 November**.

This is beyond the date when the new planning legislation comes into effect. As a result, planning decisions will generally be made by the Planning Department without the involvement of FHDC councillors.

However, as this is an "own interest" application – effectively the Council applying to itself – it is likely to be referred to the Planning Committee, made up of FHDC councillors, for a decision.

**The Planning Committee is expected to meet at 7pm in the Council Chamber on one of the following dates:**

- **Tuesday 10 November 2026**
- **Tuesday 8 December 2026** (*possible alternative*)

The date has yet to be confirmed.

**Please be prepared to attend** and help fill the public gallery. A strong community presence will demonstrate just how important Everist Court is to Lyminge and its residents.

If the application is refused, as we hope, Everist Court will remain a community building. We will then need the support of many local people to help prepare it for its future as our much-needed **Community Hub**.

**Please support us – the future of Everist Court matters to us all!**



On Thursday 1st October the Lyminge Art Group hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning at Etchinghill Village Hall. New members are always welcome (contact Elizabeth Sharp 07468422590).

It was a most enjoyable morning with all the tables full of people chatting and savouring delicious cakes. Several guests made donations to Macmillan in order to take home an original work of art while the exhibition of paintings was admired by everyone.

The occasion was very well supported and an incredible **£650 was raised**. It was also a wonderful opportunity for the group to remember and honour their good friend and founder member, Linda Wilsher, who sadly lost her fight against cancer back in April.



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Trusted local pet care throughout the Elham Valley



## Lyminge Handbell Ringers

Add some festive sparkle to your Christmas celebrations!

Looking for something a little different for your Christmas gathering, community event, club or care home?

The **Lyminge Handbell Ringers** would love to come along and provide some traditional festive entertainment with our collection of Christmas favourites.

We ask for a **donation to our chosen charity, Free to Be Kids**, ([freetobekids.org.uk](http://freetobekids.org.uk)) which helps disadvantaged young people experience the great outdoors.

**To book the Handbell Ringers, please contact: Ro Edmond**

**Tel:** 01303 863201 **Email:** [roedmond@gmail.com](mailto:roedmond@gmail.com)

**Give your Christmas event a little extra sparkle — and help support a great cause at the same time!**



*Hair at a Snip.*

*Ladies & Gents Mobile Hairdresser*

*Professional friendly home service with many years experience.*

*Reasonable prices.*

*Call Sue on 07817 841257*



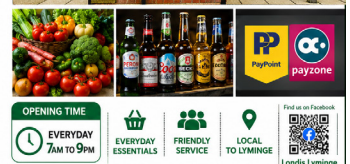
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- 3 UPS
- 4 Relay



11-13 Station Road, Lyminge, Folkestone. CT18 8HS



Find us on Facebook  
**Londis Lyminge**

# Lyminge Friends

Our meeting on **Wednesday, 4th November** is our second Community meeting of the year and the **Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance** will be telling us about the brilliant work the charity does. **There will be no charge for this meeting.**

**Also, our 2027 programme will be available to view.**

**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 12noon unless stated otherwise.*



*Pete Warren entertained Lyminge Friends with very interesting, personal stories of his life in the cockpit*

## Lyminge Community Hub CIC

### MINUTE SECRETARY WANTED

Our group urgently needs a new **Minute Secretary**, following the departure of our current secretary for personal reasons.

**We meet approximately every two weeks, usually in the evening, as necessary. Our main focus is continuing to campaign for a Community Hub for everyone in Lyminge and the wider Elham Valley.**

If you could spare a little time to support this important community project, we would love to hear from you. Interested? Please get in touch for more information.

Email: [yd.freeman@mypostoffice.co.uk](mailto:yd.freeman@mypostoffice.co.uk) or [pabow99@btinternet.com](mailto:pabow99@btinternet.com)

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# Kingdom

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# 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

Everyone welcome – no matter your experience!

### NOVEMBER 2026

|                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>at the Tayne Centre<br>Tayne Centre<br>Church Road<br>Lyminge<br>CT18 8JA          | <b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>at the Methodist Church<br>Methodist Church<br>Church Road<br>Lyminge<br>CT18 8JA |
| <b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>at the Methodist Church<br>Methodist Church<br>Church Road<br>Lyminge<br>CT18 8JA | <b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b><br>at the Methodist Church<br>Methodist Church<br>Church Road<br>Lyminge<br>CT18 8JA |

Come and enjoy singing together!

Sing, socialise and have fun in a friendly group.

Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford

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



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## LYMINGE ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET

28 June  
26 July  
23 Aug.  
27 Sep.  
25 Oct.  
22 Nov.

LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL  
WOODLAND ROAD CT18 8EW

## CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 26TH NOVEMBER (SEE P1)

# THE KING'S ARMS ELHAM

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE  
WHAT'S ON AT YOUR  
LOCAL COUNTRY PUB!

**QUIZ NIGHT**

FESTIVE QUIZ  
MONDAY 9TH NOVEMBER  
CHARITY QUIZ TO RAISE  
MONEY FOR GREAT ORMAND  
STREET HOSPITAL.  
PENS DOWN AT 7PM  
TEAMS UP TO 6  
£5P CASH ENTRY  
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO  
CHARITY  
GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!!

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23RD NOVEMBER - 23RD DECEMBER  
2 COURSES £30  
3 COURSES £35

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CHRISTMAS DAY MENU NOW LIVE!  
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WITH US AT THE KING'S ARMS!  
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EVERY FRIDAY FROM 5PM  
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COCKPIT COTTAGE

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LIVE MUSIC EVERY SATURDAY 4-6PM  
GRAB A DRINK AND ENJOY THE  
MUSIC!

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FROM 9PM TILL LATE  
ELECTRIC OUTFIT BAND 9PM- 1AM  
MAGICIAN 8PM - 11PM

# 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 i @thoughtfulfoodgroup

Next **Thoughtful Food** meeting, **Monday 23rd November at The Coach & Horses**



## Planning and Preparing the Garden for 2027

Now is the time to really consider preparing for next year's growing season. Autumn and early winter are the times to reassess the layout of your garden in the light of the rapidly changing climactic conditions we are now having to get used to. Also, how do we now prepare our plots for the coming unknowns?

This article is about **MULCHING**.

I usually mulch my beds around my plants with wood chips in the autumn or early spring to cut out the light thus keeping the weeds down. This year, though, mulching my beds has been a life saver as far as plant survival and productivity has been concerned. In early spring I allow my beds to get fully hydrated then cover the bare soil with compost and wood chip around emerging plants to prevent weeds and conserve moisture. The main problem this year was waiting for a downpour to fully hydrate the soil before covering it with the mulch! After a minimal amount of rain, I bit the bullet and watered from my water tanks, then covered the soil around my baby plants with a couple of centimetres of compost then of wood chip. I even did my vegetable beds, a thing I have not done before. I have to say I was amazed at the result. The surface of the wood chips was very dry indeed throughout the drought but on investigating further down into the soil the moisture was retained. Obviously, I continued watering avidly but not daily and not everything. Not only were weeds less, watering less, but I realised that the roots were being kept cool as well. The mulch then breaks down and

adds nutrients which the worms drag down during the autumn and winter.

So, what can you use as a mulch?

1. Wood chip. This can be used on large areas as well as a covering for pots and containers. This can usually be obtained free from a tree surgeon. Either a delivery or I'm sure you can go and get individual bags if you are prepared to bag it up yourself.
2. Wood shavings/sawdust are very effective as well.
3. Partially broken-down compost.
4. Spent /used topsoil/compost. Don't just throw away spent compost when you empty flowerpots. Put it on your beds as a mulch or mix it into your compost bins or mix it with wood chip for your mulch.
5. Leaves. It is recommended to leave the fallen leaves on your borders, although, I would recommend removing laurel leaves. Only sweep up from lawns and paths. They rot down very quickly. If you have a supply of rotted down leaves, put those on your beds over winter.
6. In the summer months, use grass clippings and I know of people who use straw. The trouble with these two are the seeds! The disadvantage with these is that they either go straight to hay in the heat or soggy and a slug haven if wet!
7. Chop and drop! When you are chopping back your plants chop them up and leave them on the soil surface. Take care to remove and seed heads you don't want to spread.

~~~~~

Recipe: Red Pepper Soup

With plenty of red peppers around at the moment, this makes a warming soup.

- 900 g red bell peppers
- 4 tablespoons olive/other oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 medium potato, peeled and chopped or substitute with 200 g of red lentils
- 2.5 cm piece fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon whole fennel seeds
- 1/2 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/4 teaspoon chilli powder
- 285 g tomatoes, chopped
- 1 litre chicken stock or vegetable stock
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 5-6 tablespoons double cream (optional)

Coarsely chop the de-seeded peppers. Heat the oil in a large pan and fry the peppers, onions, potatoes or lentils, ginger and spices until the vegetables begin to brown. Add ½ litre of stock and the salt. Bring to a simmer, cover and cook gently for 25 minutes.

Blend until smooth, return to the pan and add the remaining stock to your preferred consistency. Stir in the cream, adjust the seasoning and heat through before serving.





LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

Councillor of the month

YVONNE FREEMAN

I spent my early years in Wallington, Surrey, where I made some lifelong friends, I am still in contact with today. Following a holiday and several day trips to Westgate, my father decided it was time to live by the sea. Once settled in, we made new friends and were fortunate to have good neighbours.

After finishing secondary education at Simon Langton School for Girls, I studied for my Private Secretary's Certificate. I

was then employed in the petrochemical industry in London working for a large American construction company until leaving to start my family.

I have a son and a daughter and three lovely grandchildren, now all at secondary school and two of whom have quite clear ideas about the type of career they wish to pursue. My time spent with them is very precious.

After living in Whitstable for over twenty years, I was keen to relocate to the countryside and so in 2006, we moved to Lyminge and will shortly be celebrating twenty years living in this delightful village.

Village life has encouraged us to get involved in our local community far more than living in a town. I am on the Lyminge Community Hub committee, which is working hard to establish a community hub to replace those services lost when AGE UK left the village in 2025. My partner and I are keen members of the Lyminge Bowls Club.

In April 2024 I joined our local choir, Cantores and enjoy the singing and friendships I have made. I am a member of the North Downs Forum group learning about rural life, the challenges farmers are facing especially with regards to Climate Change, and what we as individuals can do to help them. I have also joined the Friends of the Nailbourne, an intermittent chalk stream and winterbourne, both of which are exceptionally rare habitats globally.

I became a member of Lyminge Parish Council in September and appreciate the opportunity to do what I can to support both the residents and life in the village.

GENERAL NOTICE:

Please let us know if you have any up-and-coming events and we will put on the Events Page on our website.



The following meetings all take place at LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL

FULL COUNCIL Tuesday 17 November 19.00

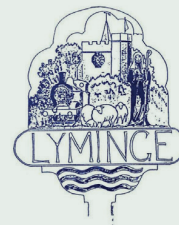
Please note all planning meetings will now be held at Lyminge Village Hall. Any additional meetings will be on our noticeboards/website.

Chairman of Lyminge Parish Council:
Roger Joyce

Councillor contact details are available on our website

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.



Help make our Parish bloom!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COMMUNITY PLANTING DAY THIS AUTUMN, WE'RE ADDING A SPLASH OF PURPLE TO OUR COMMUNITIES!

On behalf of Lyminge Parish Council, we have purchased 1,000 purple crocus corms through the Rotary Club, and now we need your help to get them planted.

Every year, Rotary clubs help to plant millions of purple crocuses to raise awareness of their efforts to end polio. When the crocuses flower in the spring, their beautiful purple blooms provide a colourful reminder of this important worldwide campaign.

Our 1,000 corms will be shared proportionately between Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis, with planting taking place in selected community locations.

We are planning a **Community Planting Day** on **Saturday 7 November 2026** and are looking for volunteers to come along and lend a hand. Whether you can spare half an hour or a few hours, every helping hand will be greatly appreciated.

It's a lovely opportunity to meet neighbours, get outdoors and help create a wonderful spring display across our parish, while also supporting the Rotary Club's **Purple for Po-lio** campaign.

Date: Saturday 7 November 2026

Time: 10am Tayne Field – Children's play area. If you would like to know about planting in Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis please be at Tayne Field at 10am. Please bring a dibber if you can!

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information, please contact:
Roger Joyce,
Chairman, Lyminge Parish Council at
roger.joyce@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Let's come together, get planting and add a splash of purple to our communities in spring 2027!

19

WHAT WE'VE BEEN BUSY WITH



Installed a new piece of kit called the Hip Twister on Jubilee Field



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The Friends of the Nailbourne



Friends of the Nailbourne - 7th November at the Tayne Centre

The Friends of the Nailbourne is a community initiative that is now up and running!

A number of volunteers from the villages along the Elham valley will be trained to monitor the quality of the water of this globally important chalk stream at an event kindly run for us by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership on Saturday 7th November at the Tayne Centre, Church Road Lyminge from 9.30 – 5pm. Everyone is welcome to come along during the day to learn more about the wider Our Stour citizen science initiative, to which our Nailbourne monitors will be contributing data on the freshwater invertebrates that they find in the stream. As the Nailbourne is also a winterbourne, we will also be collecting information on the presence of water at fixed points along the route of the stream throughout the year.

Alongside the establishment of this monitoring programme, we are looking at ways to celebrate and raise awareness of our chalk stream. If you have any images, or anecdotes about its role in the history of the communities through which it runs, or ideas for celebrating the Nailbourne we would love to hear from you.

For further information about this initiative please contact Catherine Hughes at friendsofthenailbourne@gmail.com.

The Nailbourne - a personal view from a Lyminge resident, Sue Chitty

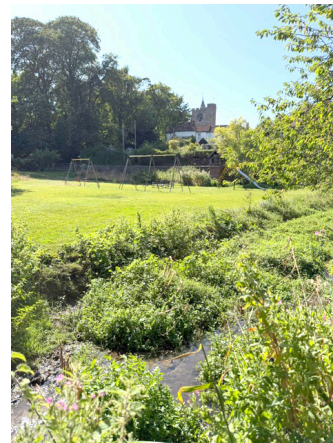
As a Friend of the Nailbourne which has just been organised as a community group for our very precious water source of The Nailbourne, I attended the Little Stour Community River Day at Wickhambreaux on 26 September this year, to learn about what water monitoring of our stream in Lyminge could entail. The Nailbourne continues into the Little Stour at



Pluck's Gutter the other side of Canterbury then onward to Sandwich and out to sea at Pegwell Bay.

There are only around 240 chalk streams in the whole world, the majority of which are found in the South of England. In Kent, our fresh water comes from the aquifers under our chalk downs. The

Nailbourne comes and goes as a chalk stream and as I write this, there is no water by the Well in Well Field, only dry stones, the first time I have seen this happen in 44 years of living here. By the time the Nailbourne reaches the Willow Tree bridge by the lower playground area of Tayne Field there is a trickle of water



and it gathers momentum as a stream under the Canterbury Road on the bend nearly opposite the Library car park entrance.

Onward through North Lyminge and following the Shuttlesfield bridle path, the Nailbourne disappears again and this week the very small fish only 2-3cm large are struggling to swim. If you head back to the Elham Valley Way footpath toward Elham you can cross another bridge when the Nailbourne crosses from right to left across the footpath. There is little water running as you approach the Ottinge crossroads area and onward across Bereforstal Hill. The Nailbourne cannot be followed closely until you reach the outskirts of Elham – Duck Lane. There is little to no water in the Elham area where flooding took place earlier this year.

So why am I writing about the Nailbourne? Because this stream is a precious part of our villages and now is a good time to record its flow and to take photos as it recovers during this autumn and winter period. Please come along to the Friends of the Nailbourne event on Saturday 7th November at the Tayne Centre to find out more.



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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: Sally Robinson [E sallyrocks.1955@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sallyrocks.1955@yahoo.co.uk)

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

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

Newsletter: Peter Barnes 07808 775302 [E pbarnes20@icloud.com](mailto:pbarnes20@icloud.com)

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

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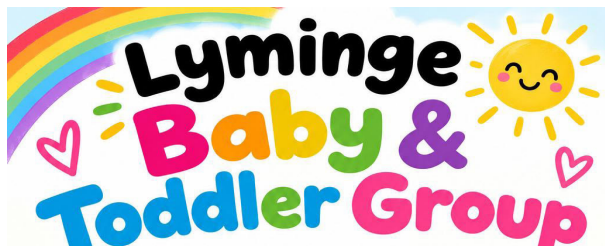
Mon to Fri	£18 per session £48 all day
Sat & Sun	£23 per session £33 for evening session and £69 all day

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AM session	08.30 - 12.30
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Evening session	18.00 - 23.45
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Mick & Dorothy Athow: 01303 862616
Email: booking-rmvh@outlook.com



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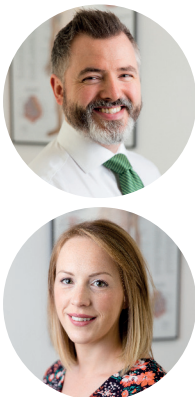
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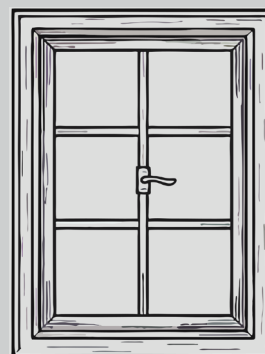
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CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 24TH NOVEMBER (SEE P1)

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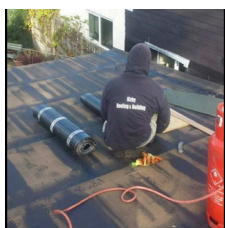
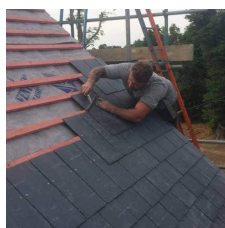
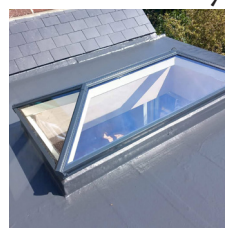
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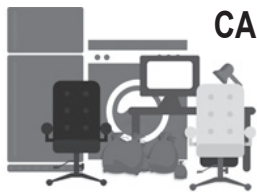


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LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

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



Here we see Canterbury Road, looking in the direction of Yew Tree Cross, with the turning to Church Road just in the corner on the left. Old Robus is now shrouded in tree cover, but in around 1910 when the photo on the left was taken, the house was quite visible from the road. It was occupied at this time by Dr John Jamieson Wallace. Lyminge Surgery was later built in the garden of Old Robus. Later the house ceased to be the residence of the doctor, so the surgery was separated off. Beyond Old Robus now lies Silverlands Road and the entrance to the Silverlands development of the 1960s. In 1910, Silverlands was still just a field



name, part of the farm belonging to Richard Hogben who lived at Robus House, which is still there but no longer the centre of a farm. In the photo on the left, the gate that is clearly visible gives access to Lyndon Hall. Today, there is no gate, making the entrance much harder to see in today's view, but it is still there. Aside from the usual much heavier tree cover, the biggest change to have occurred between the two views, seems to be the creation of the grass verge on the corner by the surgery. Otherwise, the key elements of the view have remained much as they were 120 years ago.

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