THE LYMINGE NEWSLETTER

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

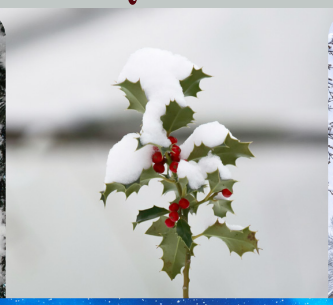
Produced by THE LYMINGE ASSOCIATION | **www.lyminge.org.uk**

From The Lyminge Association **DECEMBER 2026**



Have A Peaceful Christmas
from









St. Mary and St. Ethelburga Church

Lyminge Methodist Church

Join us for a Christmas Service - see P3

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)

Please note, that because of the Christmas holidays, the January edition of the newsletter will be delayed until early January 2027.

Margaret Saunder's Meanderings

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

December

I'm staying in the Brecon Beacons, high up in the mountains in a converted barn. Looking south, the view is stunning, hillsides covered in grassy sheep-filled fields, dotted with crumbling stone buildings. It is -6°C as a clear dawn creeps in from the east – the frosted fields gradually becoming visible. I breathe in deeply, my breath escaping in clouds of white vapour as I take in this vast view. In the foreground a fox trots silently and confidently across a white field, homeward bound after a night of wily hunting. Foxes are crepuscular creatures, being most active around dawn and dusk. As they walk on their toes, their footprints are rounded, relatively small and they follow straight lines. A profound silence prevails in this vast landscape except for the babbling of a stream behind and below me. Later the same day this tranquillity is broken as RAF jets streak through the valleys flying 'nap of the earth', closely following every contour – the pilots' adrenalin at full throttle too no doubt! But once past, the stillness returns.

Light becomes precious in these short days, and I dawn-watch in the Elham valley when cloud cover permits, eager to see the patterns and colours of the clouds. December dawns last a long time as the sun rises more obliquely so I have plenty of time to see the slow change that takes place – the subtle movements of colour and density of light; bright red vapour trails, only seen in this colour at dawn or dusk; the silence before the birds begin their morning calls; the faint mistiness across the valley; the quiet rustle of beech leaves if any breeze is around. But above all, the stillness and the calm.



Storm Bram blows in on 9-10 December, mostly affecting the western side of the country.

In Plymouth, a section of the West Hoe Pier collapses due to large waves. Locally, at West Hythe, a pounding sea heaves with huge waves, and it is difficult to walk against the wind. This strong wind finally strips the deciduous trees of their last remaining leaves, laying bare delightfully delicate twig patterns. Walks, if rain has been persistent, might only be around the perimeter of the village, but are nonetheless enjoyable. The village pond is steadily filling, ready for the mallards to move in. Lights begin to appear earlier in windows and on streets, giving a cheerful glow to the long dark evenings. Advent wreaths adorn doors as we bring greenery to our homes, following centuries of tradition.

The birds in my garden – blackbirds, bluetits, bullfinches, chaffinches, greenfinches, coal tits, robins, sparrows and starlings - empty the bird feeders almost faster than I can fill them, jostling for the best position and ready to fight off anyone who attempts to usurp their space. Food is essential and during these short days, birds must feed often and well to survive. As well as drinking, they spruce themselves up in the two birdbaths, sometimes three at a time and at other times, lining up along the fence awaiting their turn. Today, four sparrows have been bathing simultaneously with great glee and gusto, behaving like pre-teenage children as they make considerable noise with their chatter in the beech hedge. Whilst preparing to bring my Christmas tree in from the garden by brushing off Autumn's leaves, I find a small, neat nest tucked into a layer of branches. I have carefully stored it and will replace it when the tree returns to its place, in case the wrens wish to tidy it up for the coming Spring – why make a new one if there is one ready to move into.

It is the very end of December and therefore the year. Each morning is darker than the last as only in the evenings are the slow minutes added at this time of year. There has been a run of foggy and misty days mixed in with brighter ones since before Christmas - so very different from the scenes we have been sending and receiving on Christmas cards, which portray a nostalgia bearing little reality to our current weather patterns in this time of global warming. But today, as we prepare to say goodbye to the past year in two days' time, colour has returned to the sky and clarity to the air and it has been good to be out and about. The constant sound of dripping from twigs and branches has ceased as a movement of air has temporarily dried them. As daylight dims, the clouds are tinged with a hint of pink, pale, but nonetheless there. Grey has its place, but colour is good for the soul. Darkness falls and the bell-ringers are busy, the joyful sound carrying across the village and up the hillsides.





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**
6th December	**11.00am**	**Lyminge -** Mr. Dwight Harris
13th December	**10.15am**	**Rhodes Minnis:** Valley Service with Mr Tim James
20th December	**11.00am**	**Lyminge:** Rev. Gill Songer (incl. Holy Communion)
Christmas Eve	**6.00pm**	**Lyminge:** Carols by torchlight with Rev. Gill Songer
Christmas Day	**10.00am**	**Christmas Service** - St Andrews Cheriton
3rd January	**10.15am**	**Elham:** Valley Service with Mr Richard Blackwell

The Rev Gill Songer is holding an Advent Course, ***'Don't be afraid'***. This will be held in Lyminge church every **Tuesday at 2pm** and **ALL** are welcome to share fellowship and a cup of tea.

RHODES MINNIS		
Date	**Time**	**Event**
6th December	9.30am	Local Arrangement
13th December	10.15am	**Valley Service at Rhodes Minnis** - Mr Tim James
17th December	7.00pm	**THURSDAY** - Village Candlelit Carol Service
20th December	9.30am	Rev Gill Songer incl Holy Communion
25th December	10.00am	**Christmas Service** - St Andrews Cheriton
27th December		No Service
3rd January	10.15am	**Valley Service at Elham** - Mr Richard Blackwell

St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

Date	Location	Time	Event
6th December	**Lyminge** **Paddlesworth**	**10.00am** **4.00pm**	WoW - Ways of Worship (Worship Band) Evensong
13th December	**Lyminge** **Lyminge**	**8.00am** **6.00pm**	Said Communion Sung Evensong
15th December	**Lyminge**	**2.00pm**	Lyminge School Service
19th December	**Lyminge**	**6.00pm**	Candlelit Nine Lessons & Carols Service
20th December	**Lyminge** **Paddlesworth**	**10.00am** **3.00pm**	Sung Eucharist Christingle and Crib service
24th December	**Lyminge**	**3.00pm**	Children's Crib Service
	Lyminge	**11.00pm**	Midnight Mass
27th December	**Lyminge**	**10.00am**	Family Praise - Reflexion and Prayers

News From The Pews:

Wednesday 2nd December - 10am to 12pm - Christmas Cake & Coffee Morning in the church. With an exhibition of the Twelve "Knits" of Christmas by the Elham Knitters. Raising funds for church and Rainbow Centre, Folkestone.

Saturday 12th December - 4pm - A Christmas Concert by the Cantores Domenicae Choir. A delightful mixture of ancient and contemporary music for Christmas including the beautiful and haunting Coventry Carol. There will be free mulled wine and mince pies during the interval.

Tickets available on the door, cash only please to raising funds in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind.

For weddings and baptisms, please contact the Benefice Secretary, Alison Dale, at beneficeadmin@elhamvalleygroupofchurches.co.uk

For funeral arrangements please contact Revd Sharon Paine sharonpaine10@aol.com **07503 290552**

Further information can obtained from the Church Wardens: Lyle Arnold 07905 438357 or Mike Chinneck 01303 863911

THE LYMINGE ASSOCIATION

Christmas Present Delivery Service

As in previous years, the Lyminge Association is happy to confirm that Santa and his willing elves will be personally delivering Christmas presents to children in their homes on the evening of

Monday, 21st December.



Presents may be left at

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

on either

Saturday, 12th December between **10am and 2pm**

or

Saturday 19th December between **10am and 2pm.**

Sorry– no other dates or times!! A receipt will be given for each bag of presents deposited.



The parcels need to be well wrapped and CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE RECIPIENT'S NAME AND ADDRESS, INCLUDING POSTCODE.

A small charge of **£2** is made per address; there is no limit to the number of presents per household, but they all need to be clearly marked with the recipient's name and address.

The Lyminge Association wishes you all a very enjoyable Christmas and hopes that the New Year proves to be full of good health and happiness.



Lyminge Gardeners' Society

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

15th December
Etchinghill Golf Club
(Members Only)

Seasons Greetings from the Committee



AGM – 19th January at
The Tayne Centre
(more details next month)



For more information about the Gardeners' Society:
Email: lymingegardeners@gmail.com
or call Anne on 07703 149008

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)

CHINA CHINA

中國城

圣诞快乐

MERRY CHRISTMAS

OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY

(Takeaway as well)

12 noon to 7pm

聖誕快樂 聖誕快樂

Eat as much as you like and select from over 200 dishes

£41 per person and £22 per child (under 1.4m)

To book your table please call in or phone 01303 863 288 or 07539 200 804

We are closed from 26th to 29th December and re-open on 30th December

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.

ONE-OFF EVENTS

Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
1st December		Mount Pleasant Close Christmas lights		Until 5th January
2nd December	10am	Christmas Coffee Morning	LPC	
5th December	10am	Fifth Trust Christmas Craft Fair	VY	
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	3pm	Haywardians Christmas Concert	LMC	
12th December	4pm	Cantores Christmas Concert	LPC	
12th December		Christmas Market Trip	EVH	
13th December	11am	Christmas Food & Craft Festival	ES	
18th December	7pm	Maya's Christmas Disco	LVH	07967203501
20th December		Christmas Tractor Run	See P12	Lyminge
21st December		**Christmas Present Delivery**		07808775302
2027		**Advertise your events here**		
17th January	7pm	Alongside Africa-Quiz	AFS	07868974641

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[3]	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[2]	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	6.30pm	Ballroom/Latin/Salsa Dancing	TC	07966 751991
Mon	6.30pm	Judo Club	LVH	07369 225021
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	7pm	Short Mat Bowls	LVH	863842
Thurs	7.30pm	Ballroom and Latin Dancing	EVH	07967 979610
Fri	9.15am	Nikki Barratt Art Group	EVH	07871 494644
Fri	10.15am	Talk Time	LL	0300 0413 131
Fri	6pm	Junior Cricket Training	SPCC	07869 283195
Fri	7pm	Table Tennis	EVH	



[1] In term time only [2] Except August [3] Except Jan, Feb, and trip in Aug
[4] Except Aug and Dec [5] Not held in August ** Every three months

AFS: Abbotts Fireside, Elham; **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; **VY**: Elham Valley Vineyard; **WF**: Well Field



Fifth Trust update

the fifth trust
supporting adults with learning disabilities

www.fifthtrust.co.uk

Our annual Christmas Craft Fair is on Saturday 5th December from 10am to 3pm at the Elham Valley Vineyard. Our students and staff have been busy creating and preparing a wonderful selection of festive gifts, decorations and treats, with plenty of opportunities to find something truly special. This year, we're adding a little extra Christmas magic, with a snow machine and a festive grotto to make the day even more merry! We can't wait to welcome everyone and share the festive spirit with our local community.

If you miss that date, you can still buy **gifts** from the **Gift Shack** in the garden centre and of course **Christmas trees**!

From all of us at The Fifth Trust, we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year. Thank you for being part of our journey!

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

BURNETTS TRADITIONAL ENGLISH FISH & CHIPS

BURNETTS FISH AND CHIPS

Traditional English Fish and Chips

- Catch of the Day
- Vegan Menu
- Gluten Free Menu (Everyday 12–8pm)
- Kids Menu

FIND US AT:
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JUNCTION 11, M20 | HYTHE | CT21 4BL

Open 7 days a week 11am – 9pm

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

www.burnettsfishandchips.co.uk

Any questions please email
info@burnettsfishandchips.co.uk

Etchinghill update - December 2026

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)
For enquiries: Chairman: Victoria Couper-Samways - 07702 625474
email: vickie.couper@icloud.com Website: www.etchinghill.info
Etchinghill Residents Association

FILM NIGHT – THERE IS NO FILM IN DECEMBER.
ERA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER – ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL 7PM (DOORS OPEN AT 6.45PM)
After the brief formalities, where you can vote for the committee members of your choice going into 2027, you will have the opportunity to air your views, help make a difference and shape the future of our community during the Open Forum.
Please ensure you support the AGM, to enable our long-standing and successful organisation (est 1982), which does such good work around the hamlet, to continue operating.

SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 10.30AM – ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL – SCREENING OF ARTHUR CHRISTMAS
Entry fee is £2 per child and free for the first accompanying adult. Second adult is £2. Each child must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Refreshments are included and there will be the opportunity to win a raffle prize.

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS – THURSDAY 24TH DECEMBER – 4PM AT THE GATEKEEPER
Come and join us at The Gatekeeper, with kind permission of the proprietor Shane Hughes, to sing some of your favourite carols from 4pm to 4.45pm. This will take place on the front terrace unless the weather is very inclement (in which case we will move indoors). Festive drinks will be available to purchase. Please contact The Gatekeeper directly on 01303 864345 if you wish to book a table. **SEE YOU THERE!**

The next FILM NIGHT screening is on MONDAY 18TH JANUARY 2027 - JOHNNY ENGLISH 2003 (PG)
RUN TIME 1HR 28 MINS
A sinister French mastermind plots to steal England's Crown Jewels and the throne itself – but secret agent extraordinaire Johnny English is on the case. Starring Rowan Atkinson, Natalie Imbruglia and John Malkovich. 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

REMEMBRANCE WEEK 2026
Thank you to all our volunteers and band of knitters & crocheters for the beautiful display at the junction of Teddars Leas and Canterbury Road.

Grants: The Etchinghill Residents Association (ERA) wishes to thank our two F&HDC Ward Councillors Jenny Hollingsbee and Elaine Martin for their prompt responses to our Grant Request. Both fully supported our 2 x £375 applications for funds to replace a considerable number of our Christmas tree lights for the trees at Meriden Park and outside the Golf Course. The ERA also wishes to thank a local resident, who prefers to remain anonymous, for their donation of £200. This funding has enabled us to continue the long tradition of Christmas Tree lighting for our community in the hamlet and indeed the southern approach to our whole Parish this year and for many years to come.

A REPEAT 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 by very large machinery for vegetation and hedgerow management.



FIREWORKS – Please try to keep fireworks to Bonfire Night itself and the weekends either side. If you're planning on setting any off outside of those times, please post to local social media sites in advance so those with young children, pets and livestock that need to, can prepare.
The ERA would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL
(Charity 302736)
Chairman: John White
Etchinghill Village Hall Kent
Bookings:
Anna Allan 07514 758936
Email: d.allan142@btinternet.com

A Big Thank You to everyone who used our Hall last year and we look forward to 2027. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all!

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

District Councillors' updates
December 2026

Planning Under the Government's National Scheme of Delegation (NSD), which came into force on 31 October 2026, councillors have lost their powers to 'call in' planning applications for consideration by an elected planning committee.

This is an important change, as call-in powers allow elected councillors to influence planning decisions and give residents an opportunity to have their views heard. Applications are now decided by unelected officers rather than elected representatives.

No application for nine or fewer dwellings can now be called in, regardless of the size of the settlement or the suitability of the site. This means that proposals ranging from nine homes in a small rural village to converting a family house into nine flats will be decided by officers.

The Head of Planning at FHDC has said he will listen to councillors, Parish Councils and residents, but clear and relevant material planning reasons must be provided. Already, one Planning & Licensing Committee meeting has been cancelled due to insufficient applications, a situation also occurring elsewhere in the country.

Bringing empty units back to life Folkestone & Hythe District Council is one of 60 local authorities to receive funding from the Government's £1.06m Derelict Buildings Fund. The scheme aims to bring long-term vacant shops, pubs and cinemas back into productive use, potentially creating community facilities, public service hubs or homes. Residents, businesses and investors will have an opportunity to influence which buildings are prioritised. Watch this space!

Spotting a scam Like many people, I have recently been inundated with nuisance calls, some not always obviously scams. Please be particularly vigilant over the Christmas period. Current scams include callers impersonating the Police or Age UK and online purchases being delivered to the wrong address.

Remember the ABC of fraud prevention:

A – Never Assume: A caller, email, text or website may not be genuine.

B – Never Believe: Criminals can disguise phone numbers and create convincing messages and websites.

C – Always Confirm: Contact the organisation directly using a trusted number or contact method you have sourced yourself.

Report fraud or cybercrime at [www.reportfraud.police.uk] or call 0300 123 2040.

Ward Grants Recently, I have contributed £375 towards replacement strings for the Etchinghill Christmas lights and £250 to the Sibton Park Tree Planting Scheme. I still have some funding available for small grants, which must be allocated by the end of February 2027. Please get in touch if I can help.

Finally, my thanks to all Parish Councils for their support throughout the year and to the many volunteers who keep our community facilities running despite the challenges. This includes the Lyminge Newsletter, Village Hall, Tayne Centre, churches, clubs, societies and our school. You all play an important part in village life.

May I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. Take care!

Contact: jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Free Christmas Parking The Council's free parking initiative returns this December. Charges in council car parks and on-street pay-and-display bays across Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh will be waived on the three Saturdays before Christmas: 5, 12 & 19 December.

Community Transport The Community Transport Service helps residents aged 65 and over who cannot otherwise reach essential medical appointments, including hospitals, GPs, dentists, opticians and chiropodists. An annual membership costs £25, with members also contributing towards drivers' mileage and a small administration fee per journey.

Further information: www.kcv.org.uk/what-we-do/community-transport

North Downs Forum Our local MP, Sojan Joseph, attended the November North Downs Forum meeting. He intends to raise the issue of poor rural bus services in Parliament, using the No. 17 bus service as an example. A paper petition is needed, so please sign the one being circulated locally.

Other projects discussed included Patchwork Farm, which aims to connect growers with growing spaces, and the Nailbourne monitoring group. The next meeting is on 11 February at the Tayne Centre.

Local Government Reorganisation The Government's Budget announced that the Local Government Reorganisation process for Kent has been paused. We expect it to restart, potentially with a proposal to make Kent a Mayoral area, which could bring additional funding. District Council elections will nevertheless take place on 6 May 2027.

Anyone considering standing as a District Councillor can attend an information session on Wednesday 25 November, 5–6pm, at the Civic Centre, Folkestone. Further sessions for prospective parish and town councillors will follow in early 2027.

Young Responders St John Ambulance offers a free Young Responders programme for 11–25-year-olds, providing practical skills and confidence to deal with emergencies. Sessions cover CPR, the recovery position and responding to serious bleeding. For information, contact Claire Ferguson at claire.ferguson@sja.org.uk.

Youth Forum Forty-nine pupils from schools across the district recently attended the Council Chamber for the third annual Youth Forum. The event gives young people a voice in shaping the district's future.

This year, discussions focused on outdoor sport and recreation, including improvements to parks, play areas and facilities for teenagers.

Wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas.
Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

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 1st and 3rd Mondays between 10:00am and Noon

December Meetings



Christmas Lunch (advance booking only)
TBC - 7th December
General Meeting - The Coach & Horses
21st December

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
TELEPHONE FRAN ON 07846 177 409 OR HEATHER ON 07427 664 084



Christmas Goose

from
Longland Farm, Elham

Premium Quality & Welfare
Environmentally Caring
2-Star Great Taste Award 2025

Small 4-5kg • Medium 5-6kg
Large 6-7kg
£22/kg

07825 181870
hello@longlandfarm.co.uk
£20 deposit payable
Collection 23 Dec



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

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

Community Meals

Our Community Meal service is available 365 days a year and has been a vital lifeline to many older people. The service pro vides a freshly prepared two course meal at lunchtime, hot and ready to eat.
Our hot lunch comes with a home cooked dessert and an op tional tea time pack can be added.



Wellbeing activities & Day services

A varied programme of activities offered both morning and afternoon, e.g. seated exercise, new age curling, art, singing and much more.
The opportunity to enjoy our cafes and other hub spaces if you would rather not take part in the main activity of the day.
If you don't want to spend the whole day with us, why not join one of our shorter social activities groups. We offer a wide range of pursuits including excercise, singing and music, crafting, Bingo and games.



Dementia Services

Our tailored services are designed to assist and support you at every stage of living with dementia, regardless of age. Our Dementia Support Workers are experienced in their field and work collaboratively with local health services to ensure support is given at the right level. They also help those close to you in coping with the changes they might be experiencing (in the Hythe and surroundings areas only).



Information and Advice

As we get older the situation for us and the ones we care for is likely to change. Age UK has a team of expert Information and Advice Officers who are able to help you navigate through those changes and ensure that you receive adequate support.
The team can help with Maximising your income, Help with form filling, Care and support advice & Signposting.
Whatever you need, call, and see how we can help.



Support at home (Housework)

Offering a range of services, our aim is to support you to live as independently as possible for as long as possible.
Our support staff can visit to assist you with tasks that might have become more difficult, for example, light housework including changing bed and laundry, preparing your lunch or support getting shopping.



Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford age UK

For more details please contact:
Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 01303 269602
www.ageuk.org.uk/hythelymingeashford/

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

Information & Advice: Drop In Sessions



Every Second Monday of the month
Drop In Sessions are open from 10AM - 1PM

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

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

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

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

Call **01303 269602** for more information

Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford age UK

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

Kent County Council Libraries

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)



It will soon be that time of year again...
(Oh yes it will!)

THE BIG FAT CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Saturday 5th December
7pm
ETCHINGHILL VILLAGE HALL

£5 per person
Maximum 6 people per table
Price includes mince pies and crackers.
Prizes for the winning team.
Plus raffle.

Bring your own refreshments.

BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW!
Call **07514 758936**
Tables must be booked in advance.
(Fully booked for the last 2 years so don't leave it too late!)

THE FUN WAY TO GET YOUR CHRISTMAS STARTED!

Any profits will go to Etchinghill Village Hall.
Charity No. 302732

Elham Farmers' Market

Christmas Food and Craft Festival

Local Arts and Crafts
Food and drink
Christmas Gifts

40+ stalls

Santa's grotto
11.30 – 1.30
for just £2

Raffle – superb prizes
raising funds for the
Children and Young People's
Cancer Association

Sunday 13 December
11am – 2pm

Elham Square and Church

Info: Debbie Francis • elhamfarmersmarket@gmail.com

Cantores

Conductor: Malcolm Munro
Accompanist: John Mitchell

Christmas Concert

Saturday
12 December 2026
at 4pm
Lyminge
Parish Church

With our special guests: **Spivochi**
A group of Ukranian Singers



Tickets £10: to include mulled wine and mince pies in the interval | children go free | cash on the door

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)

Your local PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

JAYNE STEADMAN PHYSIOTHERAPY

Expert private physiotherapy delivered where it suits you or a loved one best - at home, in a care home, or at our clinic, The Barn in Stelling Minnis.



- Friendly, experienced team
- HCPC-registered Chartered Physiotherapists
- Orthopaedic recovery & post-surgery rehab (incl. joint replacements)
- Stroke & neurological physiotherapy
- Musculoskeletal injuries & pain management
- Improve mobility, reduce pain, restore independence
- Serving Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe

jaynesteadmanphysiotherapy.co.uk
07903 866 590
jayne@steadmanphysio.co.uk
The Barn, Stelling Minnis, Canterbury, CT4 6BB

The Tayne Centre Lyminge

Achieve Active
Do more. Be More





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.

Friday mornings

10:15- 11:15 -
DanceMotion £6.50

11.30 -12:15 -
Armchair-a-cise £6.00

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

contact us on acac.class@outlook.com

LORD WHISKY ANIMAL SANCTUARY



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.



TO DONATE:



DONATE VIA OUR WEBSITE, OR CALL 01303 862622.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT. WE SEND OUR BEST WISHES FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.



CALL US ON 01303 862622 OR EMAIL LORD.WHISKY@BTINTERNET.COM



PARK HOUSE STELLING MINNIS KENT CT4 6AN

Your Local Pharmacy

Lyminge 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

NHS

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

Ask a member of staff to learn more

Contact us at
TEL:
01303 862425

EMAIL:
lymingeinformed@gmail.com

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

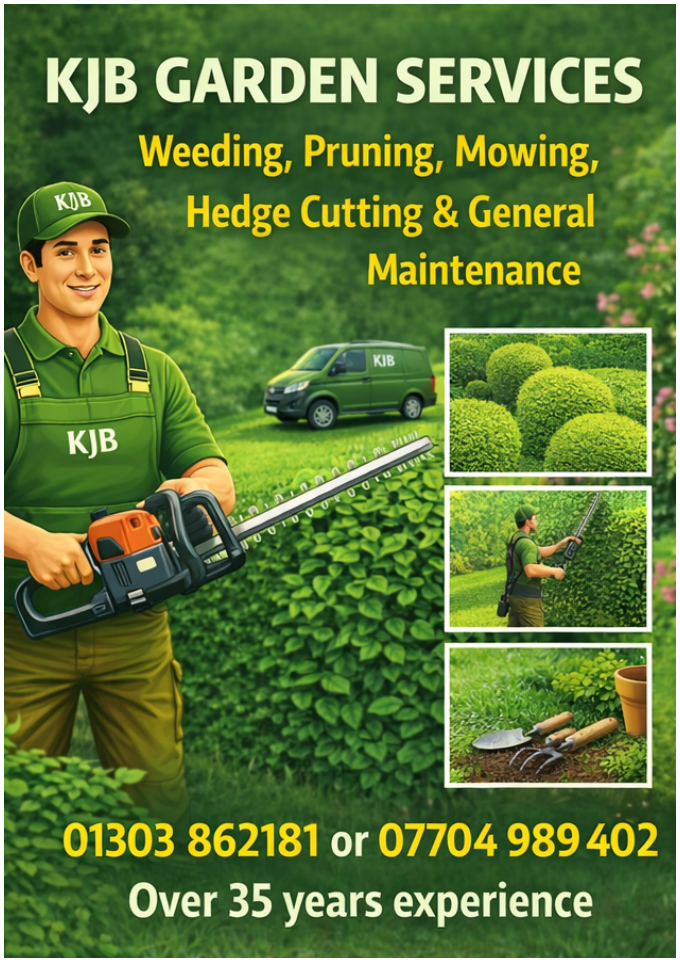
FABRIC

CONSTRUCTION GROUP

SPECIALISTS IN PERIOD PROPERTY BUILDING & MAINTENANCE

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE ACROSS ALL ASPECTS OF MAINTENANCE TO PERIOD PROPERTIES USING TRADITIONAL METHODS AND MATERIALS

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR PROJECT
EMAIL: INFO@FABRICCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK
CALL: 07912 757311
WWW.FABRICCONSTRUCTIONGROUP.CO.UK



PARISH CHURCH

St. Mary & St. Ethelburga

CHRISTMAS

COFFEE MORNING

10.00 - 12.00

WEDNESDAY

2nd DECEMBER

CAKE : CAKE : CAKE

Raffle : Sales Table

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)



Lyminge Historical Society

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm
Tuesday 1st December 2026
The Tayne Centre, Church Road, Lyminge CT18 8JA



Mystery and Make-Believe:
a miscellany of things you (probably) never knew about Lyminge Parish Church
(preceded by the Annual General Meeting)

Speaker: Rob Baldwin

Members Free

New members and visitors are always welcome
Visitors: £5 payable on the door
All our publications are on sale at our meetings and at Lyminge Library.
NEWLY PUBLISHED: The substantially revised and extended 2nd edition of ***Lyminge a history Part 1*** is now available price £8

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Our monthly meetings will recommence in 2027 with:
2 March: Elizabeth Barton: The Maid of Kent – Melanie Gibson-Barton

Lyminge Community Hub CIC

The ex-AgeUK building Everist Court, a future Community Hub?

FHDC moves the goalposts – again!

Well, FHDC has moved the goalposts again! The second and supposedly final decision date was 6 November. It has now been pushed back yet again to 21 December – the Monday before Christmas. Convenient timing? Perhaps the Council is hoping that by then, the community will have lost interest and the decision will pass largely unnoticed.

But the central issue remains: FHDC cannot simply remove the community status of Everist Court without identifying a viable alternative building, or buildings, capable of accommodating a community hub.

We did that research more than a year ago and sent our findings directly to Jim Martin, Leader of the Council. Yet FHDC's latest submission appears to have ignored much of that work. Websites have been misinterpreted, enquiries about buildings have not been brought up to date, and information and attachments already supplied to Jim Martin have seemingly been overlooked. The result? A list of suggestions that simply will not work. **This looks less like a serious search for a solution and more like clutching at straws.**

Two fundamental problems undermine FHDC's proposals:

-**The Village Hall**: FHDC relies on the assumption that a room will be available every day. It won't. The safeguarding arrangements required for the Pre-School mean that this space cannot be used as suggested.

- **The kitchen**: Any venue serving hot meals must have a dedicated, sole-use kitchen. A shared kitchen is simply not a workable solution.

FHDC has also criticised our business plan as incomplete. Of course it is! **You cannot produce a fully costed business plan without knowing which building you will be operating from.** The premises will determine the layout, facilities, running costs and investment required.

What we do have is a clear vision, a plan for the services the community needs, and potential sources of funding that can be pursued as soon as suitable premises are secured. We are not expecting to rely on Council funding.

Perhaps therefore, we can avoid the financial difficulties that have so recently beset the New Romney Community Hub.

The community has done its homework. It has put forward practical proposals and identified what is needed. The question now is: why is FHDC still failing to come up with a workable alternative?

Another delay is not an answer. And neither is a list of buildings that cannot deliver what the community needs.

So please click on the following link and send in your comments: folkestonehythedc.my.site.com/PR3/s/detail/a1nbH00000mlilH

Please support us – the future of Everist Court matters to us all! ***Gillan Heywood, MBE***

Lyminge Neighbourhood Plan: Invitation to provide comments on Pre-Submission (Regulation 14) Version Plan

I am delighted to invite you to comment on the **Pre-Submission Version of the Lyminge Neighbourhood Plan**, which has been drawn up based on the views of the Lyminge community, and led by the Lyminge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Lyminge Parish Council.

The Lyminge Neighbourhood Plan is our opportunity to have more influence over land-use and planning decisions in our parish. The plan contains planning policies that would ultimately form part of the Development Plan for the area and would carry equal weight to the policies contained in the Local Plan.

In developing the policies, we have engaged with the community on a wide range of issues through events and workshops held across the parish. Based on the feedback we have received, our focus has been on protecting what makes our parish and its three settlements so special. This includes our much-valued Kent Downs landscape, wealth of heritage assets, natural spaces and biodiversity, as well as the vital facilities and services that support our villages.

We have reached an important milestone in the process, having prepared the draft Plan and we want your views.

The document will be subject to consultation from **Wednesday 18 November 2026 to 5pm Monday 4 January 2027. Presentations at the village halls on the following dates: LYMINGE 13th December 10-11am, RHODES MINNIS 12noon-1pm, ETCHINGHILL 14th December 3.30-4.30pm. (See P35)**

This is a statutory Pre-Submission Consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended).

The Draft Plan and the associated documents can be found on the Lyminge Parish Council website: lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-council/neighbourhood-plan/

We welcome your views on the draft policies. Please submit your responses in one of the following ways:

- Scan the QR code.

or visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/LymingeNDP1

- By email to: simon.horton@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk
- By post to: The Parish Post Box, outside Lyminge Village Hall.

If you have any queries or require assistance in viewing the neighbourhood plan documents, please contact the Locum Parish Clerk on 07774 690199.

We thank you in advance for your comments.

Simon Horton, Locum Proper Officer, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to Lyminge Parish Council.

Tel: 07774 690199 www.lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Address: C/O Lyminge Village Hall, Woodland Road, Lyminge, Kent CT18 8EW

Lyminge Friends

Lyminge Friends would like to thank everyone for their continued support this year as we have continued to grow as a community group within the village. We wish you all a very happy festive season and we look forward to our 2027 programme.
There will be no meeting in January. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 3rd February** which will be our **AGM** followed by a talk on the **KENT SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS.**
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.



Gill Gough from KSS Air Ambulance gave a very interesting talk on the brilliant work carried out by **Kent, Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance**

Be an active part of your community
- join The Lyminge Association Committee;
a few hours a month is all we ask.
'Remember, this is the time for giving!!'

Eric & Helen present

QUIZ NIGHT

A multi-media extravaganza
in aid of the charity -

ALONGSIDE AFRICA


Lawrance Titterton: Founder & chairman
Monica Titterton: Trustee & Uganda mentor
Residents of Etchinghill


A volunteer at work with children in Uganda


Amasiko Halfway House

Please also bring along plenty of small change for other fund-raising fun and games!

Abbot's Fireside

Tables of 6 are invited at £5 per head. ALL proceeds from the quiz go directly to the charity


Christmas party Jan 2023

Kindly hosted by The Abbot's Fireside, Elham. January 17th January 2027- 7pm
Interval refreshments available for £7.95

To book contact Helen on 07868974641 or email wellcottageelham@gmail.com

To learn more about the charity visit; alongsideafrica.org

Registered Address: Alongside Africa, 1-2 Rhodium Point, Spindle Close, Folkestone,, CT18 7TQ
Registered charity number: 1146752
Registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee: 7458896

Hythe, Lyminge & Ashford age UK
Registered Charity No: 1125274

Folkestone, Hythe & Rural Primary Care Network

Dementia Drop In Clinic

Worried about your memory?
Living with dementia?
Supporting someone who is?

Join us for a friendly chat, advice and support.

Local Solicitor
Advice on wills, Power of Attorney and legal matters

Carers Support
Practical advice and guidance

A Clinician
Speak to a health professional

Access to other support
Find out about local services and support with Benefits

4th Friday every month

1.00pm – 2.30pm

Free

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

For more details call
01303 269602
No need to book



St. Mary & St. Ethelburga Lyminge

Nativity and Blessing of the Crib



Come and be part of the Christmas Story.

Dressing up clothes provided

Meet the Shepherds & their animals

3pm Christmas Eve

A fun family service for all.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT DELIVERY - 21ST DECEMBER (SEE P3)

The King's Arms 1450

THE KINGS ARMS ELHAM

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS SHOPPING? GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!!

QUIZ NIGHT

BIG FAT CHRISTMAS QUIZ OF THE YEAR!!
7TH DECEMBER
PENS DOWN AT 7PM
£5PP CASH ENTRY
TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE
SLEIGH THE QUIZ AND WIN SOME PRIZES!!

CALL US ON 01303840242

FESTIVE SET MENU

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

CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS DAY MENU NOW LIVE!
CELEBRATE YOUR CHRISTMAS WITH US AT THE KINGS ARMS!
FOR INQUIRES CALL 01303840242 OR EMAIL
INFO@THEIKINGSARMSELHAM.COM

STEAK FRITES

EVERY FRIDAY FROM 5:30PM
STEAK, FRIES & CAFÉ DE PARIS SAUCE £20

NOW SERVING BREAKFAST

MON - SAT 9AM-11AM
SUNDAY 8AM - 10AM
BED&BREAKFAST AVAILABLE AT COCKPIT COTTAGE

MUSIC SATURDAYS

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

NEW YEARS EVE

LICENSE TO PARTY
DRESS CODE: DRESS TO IMPRESS
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 @thoughtfulfoodgroup

Lower Cock Ash Organics

Busy with careers in London's creative industries, Jo Wills and Clive Cope wanted a healthier, local food system and a stronger sense of community. Inspired by the producers at Borough Market, Jo decided to become a food grower.

Not far from Lyminge lies Monks Horton, named after its medieval priory. Jo and Clive fell in love with a medieval house there with a 1-hectare garden and saw its potential as a market garden.

After a year renovating the house, they turned to the garden, creating the semblance of a medieval garden. Beds span out in quadrants from a central water feature (a large factory wash basin Jo found on eBay), with tall vertical structures such as cardoons. Vegetables are grown for their beauty as well as their nutrition and income, balancing garden and smallholding.

Both knew that Soil Association certification depended on nurturing the soil of this former pasture. Jo describes Melissa Thompson as a co-worker. Melissa is a Certified Soil Food Web Lab Tech and soil microscopist who studied under Dr Elaine Ingham, famous for the food web map that illustrates soil structure. She advocates cultivating native microbes to make controlled microbial compost that restores soil health and opened Jo and Clive's eyes to the life in their soil. Together they gained certification within 18 months of applying. The Soil Association carries out regular checks, and anything brought in, such as manure, must be proven chemical-free.

The result is clear: abundant, healthy crops even in the colder months. A crop of Jerusalem artichokes had just gone to the wholesaler, following sacks of garlic, and requests were coming in for salad crops such as sorrel.

Jo will take compliments for what they have achieved in a short time and wants others to feel enabled – "If I can do it, anyone can" – but also wants the mistakes, failures and heartache acknowledged. It's not all a bucolic image of countryside life.

Lower Cock Ash Organics is thriving. A farm shop opens in warmer months, and the website sells seasonal produce all year, including Clive's sourdough bread and dried goods from Hodmedods. Jo is proud of the community of customers she has built. They have a special relationship with Dave, the chef at Franc in Canterbury, and sell to wholesalers Shrub and the Goods Shed in Canterbury, as well as to many individual customers.



Jo envisions the farm shop as a showcase for local produce made with passion and care. Nearby, Moorstock Bees specialise in honey and wax products, including wax-lined cloth bags that keep bread fresh, and the area is home to artists and potters. Keep an eye on the website for these developments – ventures like these deserve applause and encouragement.

lowercockashorganics.com

www.lowercockashorganics.com

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Recipe: Mushroom Wellington

If you're looking for a different seasonal dish, this is a tasty choice.

Ingredients:

- 7 large flat mushrooms
- 2–3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 brown onions, finely chopped
- 160g/5¾oz dried apricots
- 400g tin green lentils, drained and rinsed
- 200g/7oz mixed nuts
- 4 sprigs fresh thyme leaves
- 3 sprigs fresh rosemary leaves
- 2 x 320g packs ready-rolled puff pastry (dairy/vegan)
- 4 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- salt & ground black pepper

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 220°C/200°C fan/Gas 7. Line a baking tray with baking paper.

2. Season mushrooms, drizzle with olive oil and roast for 15 mins.

3. Fry onions in olive oil for 10 minutes until softened.

4. Blend apricots with 100ml water to a smooth paste. Separately pulse lentils, nuts, thyme and rosemary until roughly broken down. Combine with the apricot paste, fried onions, salt and pepper.

5. Lay one pastry sheet on the tray. Spread a third of the stuffing down the centre (5cm wide). Arrange four mushrooms, gills upwards, on top, sprinkle with garlic, then add the remaining three mushrooms, gills down.

6. Cover with the remaining stuffing, then place the second pastry sheet over the top. Seal the edges, trim excess pastry, score the top and crimp with a fork.



7. Brush with olive oil and bake for 40–50 minutes until golden brown and cooked through.
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LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

Councillor of the month

ALAN CROUCHER

My name is Alan Croucher, and I'm pleased to be serving as a Parish Councillor for Lyminge.

Much of my life has been spent supporting young people through Scouting. I've been an adult Scout volunteer for 43 years, including around 15 years with 1st Lyminge Scout Group. During that time, I've seen first-hand the difference that Scouting can make, helping young people develop confidence, learn new skills and become valued members of their communities. A couple of years ago, I was honoured to receive the Silver Acorn award from the Scout Association in recognition of my service.

My decision to join the Parish Council was driven by a desire to support the young people of our village, ensure their voices are heard and help make sure that local services meet their needs. Young people are an important part of our community, and I believe their views should be considered when decisions are made about the village and its future.

I'm also enjoying being involved in the wider work of the Parish Council and having the opportunity to contribute to the many decisions that affect village life.

I've always been a problem-solver by nature. My brain rarely lets a problem sit still for long! I firmly believe there is usually a solution to be found, and I'm the sort of person who will keep looking until I find one. I hope to bring that practical, positive approach to my role as a councillor.

Above all, I want to play a useful part in making Lyminge a great place to live for everyone, while helping to ensure that the needs of our younger residents are not overlooked.



Alan Croucher with two of our Explorers, having just completed the zip wire challenge

The following meetings all take place at LYMINGE VILLAGE HALL

FULL COUNCIL Tuesday 15 December 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.

Strong community spirit

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As Christmas approaches and another year draws to a close, on behalf of Lyminge Parish Council, I would like to extend our warmest wishes to all residents of Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis for a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

The festive season gives us an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed and to celebrate the strong community spirit that makes our parish such a special place. Our thanks go to the many volunteers, community groups, local organisations and businesses whose efforts help make our communities vibrant, welcoming and supportive places to live.

As another year comes to a close, we can take pride in what has been achieved across our parish. Progress is rarely the result of any one individual or organisation, but of people working together with a shared commitment to their community. The most lasting achievements come through cooperation, mutual respect and a willingness to focus on what unites us rather than what divides us.

During 2026, the Parish Council has continued to evolve, strengthening its governance and improving the way it serves residents. We remain committed to that journey in the years ahead.

May 2027 will see the election of a new Parish Council. Some familiar faces may decide that the time is right to step aside after years of dedicated service, while new voices and fresh perspectives will have an opportunity to help shape the future of our parish. Effective local government depends not only on commitment and scrutiny, but also on collaboration, civility and a shared determination to act



in the best interests of the whole community.

As we look ahead to the New Year, we do so with confidence and optimism. By continuing to work together and take pride in our communities, we can ensure that Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis remain wonderful places to live, work and thrive.

On behalf of Lyminge Parish Council, thank you for your continued support throughout the year.

Could you be a Parish Councillor?

Have you ever thought about becoming a Parish Councillor and getting more involved in your local community?

With the next Parish Council elections taking place in May 2027, now is a good time to start thinking about whether this might be something for you. Being a Parish Councillor is a great opportunity to have a say in local matters, represent the views of residents and help make a positive difference to our villages.

If you think you might be interested or would just like to find out a little more about what being a Parish Councillor involves, please get in touch with the Parish Clerk at clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk. We would be really pleased to hear from you!

If you would like to get in touch please email:

clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk
debbie.capon@lymingeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Lyminge Climate Action

HEDGE PLANTING Days at Sibton Park

Join South East Rivers Trust at Sibton Park, Lyminge for a planting event to see natural flood management in action and help protect Sibton Park for future generations

Join local volunteers, residents and the South East Rivers Trust to help create new hedgerows, plant trees and establish a community orchard at Sibton Park. By taking part, you'll be helping to reduce flood risk, improve wildlife habitat, and strengthen the landscape's resilience to climate change, while making a lasting contribution to a valued community space.

Whether you can join for a few hours or several days, every tree planted and every metre of hedgerow created will play an important role in protecting and enhancing Sibton Park for years to come.

Dates and times (10am until 3pm) for December:

Thursday 10th December
Wednesday 16th December
Thursday 17th December

Book your place via Eventbrite: www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/south-east-rivers-trust-17270545444 or email Claire Norman on clairenorman01@gmail.com

Why is there so little water currently in the Nailbourne?

Unfortunately, due to a lack of sufficient water in the Nailbourne the training event run by the Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership on 7th November had to be postponed until next Spring. Information on a revised date will appear in the Newsletter when this has been arranged. Nevertheless, we used the day to good effect to clean the channel along the stream in Well Field, in the process revealing the extent of the unusually low water level.

The Nailbourne is a particularly unusual form of chalk stream, also known as a winterbourne. Winterbournes flow intermittently, usually at the end of winters and during wetter years. Traditions allege that the Elham Valley Nailbourne flows along its entire length only once in every seven years. While evidence doesn't support such an exact pattern, historical records demonstrate that it certainly flows less frequently today than it did in the past.



Whether or not the Nailbourne is flowing depends mainly on fluctuations in the water table. Due to variations in the depth of the water table, some chalk streams don't flow consistently along their whole length. Only when water levels are high enough therefore does this stream flow from its sources at Lyminge along its full length to Littlebourne, where it joins the Little Stour. Although it has always been an intermittent stream, the effects of climate change led to the summer of 2026 being an exceptionally hot and dry one. As a result the Nailbourne is drier earlier and more extensively than in recent years.

For many centuries the irregularity and unpredictable nature of the winterbournes of East Kent (the Petham and Alkham Valleys also host winterbournes, in addition to the Elham Valley) have been rich sources of local legends and folklore. Their appearance is often associated with bad luck (!), while the mysterious appearances of the Elham Valley Nailbourne is believed to be the inspiration for the Magic River in the Rupert Bear stories.

Therefore, although the ephemeral waters of the Nailbourne are largely below ground at the moment, we can be reassured that the stream will reappear in the coming months, allowing its special contribution to the identity of the villages and hamlets along its length to continue.

For further information about the Friends of the Nailbourne community initiative please contact friendsofthenailbourne@gmail.com



Lyminge Newsletter

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Copy deadline for next edition - 18 December 2026. Please email your copy to the editor at **pbarnes20@icloud.com**
Your payment must be received before your article or advert can appear in the Newsletter. Invoices will be issued and should be paid ASAP either by BACs, cheque, credit card or cash (details on invoice).
Business adverts cost from £10 per month or £100 per year.
Personal and charity adverts and articles from £5 per month, or £50.00 per year.
If you do not have email, please phone the editor - 07808775302.
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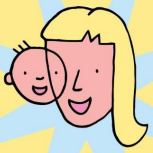

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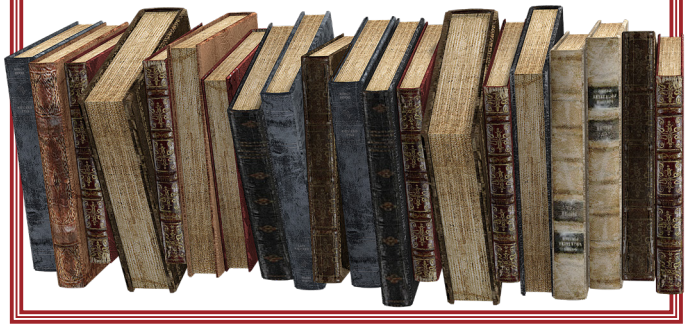

The Lyminge Association

We're here to support and develop our community!

CONTACTS:

Chair: Heather Dunford 07427 664084 **E** heather.dunford@gmail.com

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

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

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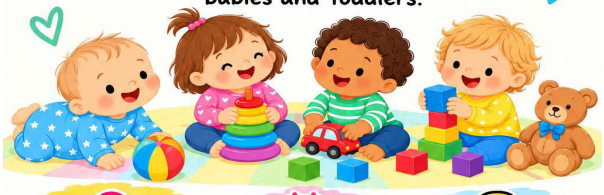

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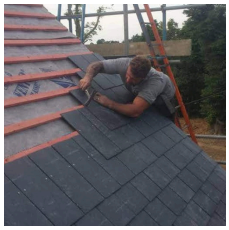




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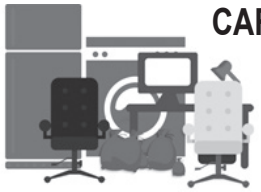

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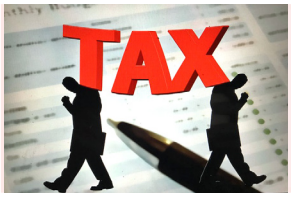

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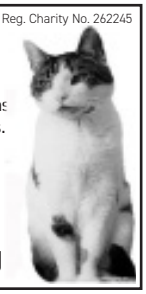

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Out & About...

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

LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

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





Here we see the south side of Mayfield Road, a little up from the corner with Station Road. The numbering now starts with these houses, but in the years after the end of the First World War, this was part of a row of shops. The butchers we can see in the picture on the left occupied one end of the row. At the other end, closer to Station Road, extending under what is now part of the development on Wentworth Close, was a greengrocer, that later became a café.

Henry Marsh moved to Lyminge around the end of the First World War, and ran the butcher's here through the 1920s. He is standing in his shop doorway. His son Albert is standing by the delivery van. Two of Henry's sons were butchers, but not at this shop and the business was taken over in the 1930s by Alec Webb who ran it up to the start of the Second World War.

The picture on the left was taken probably around 1920. A few years after this, a mission hall was built on the vacant plot to the right of the shop and this building is still standing, the white building visible in the picture on the right hand side. It was extensively renovated with rendered walls and a new roof when it was turned into a house towards the end of the last century, so it is difficult to see now that it had a radically different use for most of its existence.

Presentation of NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(see P 14)

at the following Village Halls

Sunday
13th December
10 - 11am LYMINGE
12noon - 1pm RHODES MINNIS

Monday
14th December
3.30-4.30pm ETCHINGHILL

Vacant Allotment Available in Lyminge

Located behind the Lyminge Methodist Church and Tayne Centre is a small group of well-maintained allotments. One has become vacant and unusually there is no waiting list.

Should anybody be interested in growing their own food and flowers, please drop an email to Philip - **taynecentre@outlook.com**











Around 200 people were present at the **Lyminge War Memorial** to remember the fallen on **Remembrance Sunday**. As one person said ***"As people fell silent at 11am, the only thing that could be heard were leaves falling from the trees, almost symbolic of those that had given their lives".***