

THE LYMINGE NEWSLETTER

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

Produced by
THE LYMINGE ASSOCIATION
www.lyminge.org.uk
February 2025
From The Lyminge Association



BOB DRURY

Classic Country Gold
with New Country Blockbusters!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

ONE NIGHT

OF

COUNTRY



HARRIET DRURY

Featuring hits from Dolly Parton, Glen Campbell,
Johnny Cash, Taylor Swift, Kenny Rogers,
Willie Nelson, Garth Brooks, Shania Twain,
Brad Paisley, Carrie Underwood
and many more

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Friday 14th March
Doors 7pm Starts 7:30pm
Lyminge Village Hall
Tickets £7.50 available from 14/2/25
From Laing Bennett, 8 Station Rd, Lyminge, CT18 8HP
Bring your own drinks & nibbles (tea & coffee available)
Organised by 'The Lyminge Association'



**Friday
14th
March
7pm
for
7.30pm**

*Tickets
for this
Lyminge
Association
event
will be
available
from Laing
Bennett
from 14th
February*

Margaret Saunders' Meanderings

Today dawned bright and cold, with a heavy frost, and taking the opportunity of a sunny day, which happens to be the third day into the New Year, I set off for Hythe for a bracing walk along the canal, signposted as the English Coast Path. With the town behind me, I head westwards from Green Lane, the sandy coloured Roughts, bathed in sunlight, to my right. What is usually a muddy path at this time of year, is today frozen solid, making for an easier walk, previous users having left their marks in the form of a range of sole patterns, paw prints and mountain bike tracks. An occasional bird flits across the path but birdsong is sparse and the further I walk, the more silent it becomes.

Hythe Canal, built between 1804 and 1809, runs for 28 miles from Seabrook to Cliff End near Hastings. Built as a defence against invasion in the Napoleonic Wars, it was never in fact used for that purpose. However, it now provides a pleasant environment for both wildlife and people. At this time of year with short days, light is precious and every lumen counts: ivy leaves flicker and glimmer in the sun's rays; blue sky is reflected in the water; white opaque ice covers yesterday's puddles; ice crystals twinkle on the top of molehills and the ground creaks as I walk. Animal runs lead down the banks from the path to the water's edge. Pigeons flutter as I walk past an ivy covered tree, where they have been feasting on the ivy berries.



Looking along the path ahead of me, the colour palette is of a muted green and brown, with a dusting of white frost. Trees are mere skeletons, each species differing in its outline and form. Blackthorn spikes are long, sharp and cruel and as a field hedgerow, provide effective defence against animal intrusion. A tennis ball, thrown by a dog walker, has lodged itself in the 'v' shaped angle between a twig and a trunk, presumably unfound by both dog and owner.

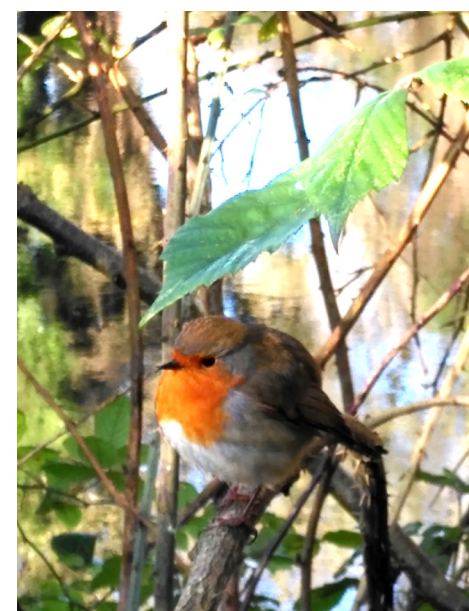
I cross the Palmarsh Footbridge and stop to look at the reflections in the water. An aircraft is making a vapour trail and this is reflected on the gently rippling surface, appearing as a white snake weaving its way southwards until it finally disappears into the darker reflection of the trees. Now, as I look back at the bridge, I see its perfect reflection in the water below. Swimming out from the bank a moorhen makes its way to the centre of the canal, creating a gentle wake. Another moorhen is foraging for food in the weed at the water's edge. It makes an alarm call causing the swimming moorhen to make a short flight back to the safety of the bank. Much further along, a flash of turquoise, gone in an instant, is my first ever sighting of a kingfisher. Patience and stillness is required to get a better view of these magnificent birds, but today is too cold and I have to keep moving.

A recent storm has brought down a sizeable tree. Five connected trunks have been sawn off which had fallen across the footpath, their bright orange ringed cores creating a burst of colour in this otherwise mainly monotone environment. On the far side of the canal, a long-ago fallen tree lies in the water and is surrounded by green water weed, a new habitat quickly forming. From the horizontal trunk new thin straight bright red branches are shooting skywards, adapting and continuing life in changed circumstances. Further along, soft feathery-topped reeds sway in the gentle northerly breeze, catching the sun. A sudden movement close-by attracts my attention as I pluck some fallen elder cones caught amongst the twigs of a tree. Cautiously I turn to look and a shiny black beady eye catches mine as I come face to face with a plump and confident robin. It is less than three feet away at eye level and I move very slowly to remove my glove, hold onto my notebook and find my phone, in the hope I can take a photo. Holding his ground, or twig in this case, he remains in situ and I manage my photo. What a privilege to be so close to Winter's most famous and much loved bird. He flits to other twigs, all very close, then finally drops to the ground, pecks at a leaf and pulls a long thin worm from the soil, devouring it instantly. Reluctantly I move on, leaving him to make friends with another walker.



After a day of cloudless skies, evening brings a soft peach glow to the western sky, followed by a sprinkling of stars. A stunning yet simple celestial scene is visible as the new waxing crescent moon hangs high in the sky with the bright evening star, Venus, in close proximity, beautiful in their simplicity and serenity. Tomorrow's forecast is for leaden skies once more and I am grateful for the short interlude today has provided in this greyest of Winters.

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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 or via methods outlined on Page 4.

Location and name codes below:

One-Off Events

Date	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.	Date	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
13-Feb	12.30pm	Dementia Café	AUKL	269602	26-Apr	7pm	Spring Quiz	EVH	07544 670363
23-Feb	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH		27-Apr	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH	
27-Feb	10am	Dominoes/Sscrabble	LBC		21-29 June		LYMINGE FESTIVAL 2025		863737
14-Mar	7.30pm	Concert: The Drurys	LVH	863737	19-Jul		The Rude Mechanical Theatre Company	TF	
20-Mar	10am	Dominoes/Sscrabble	LBC		14-Sep	9am	Garage Sale		863600
23-Mar	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH		25-Oct	7pm	Autumn Quiz	EVH	07544 670363
29-Mar	10:00 am	Spring Litter Pick	EVH	07544 670363	30-Nov	4.45pm	Christmas Lighting Event	Meriden Park	07544 670363
12-Apr	9am	Garage Sale		863600	07-Dec	7pm	ERA AGM	EVH	07544 670363

Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.	Day	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
Sun	5.30pm	The Dragonglyz Centre	EVH		Wed	10am	Pilates	TC	07825109670
Mon	10am	Dementia Daybreak	AUKL	269602	Wed	10am	Dementia Day Break	AUKL	269602
Mon	10am	Bridge Club	LBC	863177	Wed	10am	Baby/Toddler Group	EVH	07817777975
Mon	10.30am	Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST)	AUKL	269602	Wed	11am	Singing For All (term time only)	AUKL	269602
Mon	10.30am	Lyminge Larks (Singing)	LMC	07951572920	Wed	7pm	Tayne Centre Circuits	TC	07925982995
Mon	10.30am	Chromatic Greys Art Class	EVH	07783575802	Wed	7.30pm	Cantores Dominicae Choir	LVH	07778 333339
Mon	1pm	Lyminge Knitters	AUKL	269602	Thurs	10am	Boxfit (non-contact)	AUKL	269602
Mon	1.30pm	Maintenance Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (MCST)	AUKL	269602	Thurs	10am	Dementia Day Break	AUKL	269602
Mon	5.15pm	Pilates	EVH	07951698008	Thurs	10am	Lyminge Morning Art Group	EVH	01303211364
Mon	7pm	Pilates	EVH	07951698008	Thurs	10.15am	Baby Rhyme Time	LL	03000413131
Mon	6.30pm	Ballroom/Latin/Salsa Dancing	TC	07966751991	Thurs	2pm	Lyminge Afternoon Art Group	TC	07870494644
Mon	6.30pm	Judo Club	LVH	07369225021	Thurs	5pm	Pilates	TC	07951608008
Mon	7pm	Yoga	RMV	07977503897	Thurs	6.15pm	Pilates	TC	07951698008
Tues	9am	Seated Yoga	AUKL	269602	Thurs	7pm	Short Mat Bowls	LVH	863842
Tues	9.30am	Tai Chi Qigong	EVH	07402203239	Thurs	7.30pm	Ballroom and Latin Dancing	EVH	07967979610
Tues	10am	Lyminge Baby & Toddler Group	TC	07870405567	Fri	8am	Chiropody (appointment only)	AUKL	269602
Tues	10am	Painting and Drawing	AUKL	269602	Fri	9am	Pilates with Katherine	AUKL	269602
Tues	10am	Dementia Day Break	AUKL	269602	Fri	9.30am	Dementia & Me Unit	AUKL	269602
Tues	11.45am	Pilates	EVH	07834839801	Fri	9.15am	Nikki Barratt Art Group	EVH	07870494644
Tues	1pm	Seated Yoga	TC		Fri	10am	Dementia Day Break	AUKL	269602
Tues	1.45pm	Pickleball	EVH	862696	Fri	10am	Painting and Drawing	AUKL	269602
Tues	6pm	Board Games Night	Corree Cabin		Fri	10.15am	Talk Time	LL	03000413131
Tues	6.45pm	Short Mat Bowls	LVH	863842	Fri	10.30am	Main Cog Stim Therapy (MCST)	AUKL	269602
Tues	7pm	Bridge Club	EVH	07790160476	Fri	6pm	Junior Cricket Training Sessions	SPCC	07869283195
Wed	9am	All Day Breakfast	AUKL	269602	Fri	7pm	Table Tennis	EVH	

Monthly Events

When	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.	When	Time	Event	Where	Tel. No.
1st Mon	10am	Stroke Support Group	C&H	07903150099	Last Tues	10.30am	Lyminge Poetry Group	LL	03000413131
2nd Mon	7pm	Parish Council Meeting	LVH	07999403948	1st Wed	10.30am	Lyminge Friends	TC	862598
3rd Mon	7pm	Etchinghill Cinema Club	EVH	07544670363	1st Wed	2pm	Bingo	EVH	
3rd Monday	10am	Stroke Support Group	C&H	07715221705	4th Wed	2.30pm	RM Circle	RVH	862913
1st Tues	2pm	RBL, Elham Valley Branch	St Mary's Church Hall, Elham	862508	Last Wed	7.30pm	Quiz Night	C&H	01303901011
1st Tues	2pm	Library Reading Group	LL	03000413131	2nd Sat	10am	Postling Ch. Coffee Morning	PC	863536
1st Tues ³	7.30pm	LHS Talk/Event	TC	863879	2nd Sat	10am	Ethelburga Quilters	EVH	
2nd Tues	2pm	Library Reading Group	LL	03000413131	4th Sun	9.30am	Farmers' Market	LVH	
3rd Tues ²	7.30pm	Gardeners' Society	TC	07703149008	3 monthly Sunday	10am	Blue Kangaroo Baby Class	EVH	07800 737936

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

AUKL: Age UK Lyminge; **C&H**: Coach & Horses; **EVH**: Etchinghill Village Hall; **ELVH**: Elham Village Hall; **ERA**: Etchinghill Residents' Association; **ES**: Elham Square; **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; **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; **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

St Mary and St Ethelburga Parish Church, Lyminge

2nd February

Lyminge 10am WOW Service
Paddlesworth 6pm Evensong, BCP.

9th. February

Lyminge 8am Holy Communion CW2
6pm Choral Evensong

16th February

Lyminge 10am Holy Communion CW1.
Paddlesworth 6pm Evensong

23rd February

Paddlesworth 8am Holy Communion, BCP
Lyminge 10am Family Praise - Anita's last service as organist

2nd March

Lyminge 10am WOW Service
Paddlesworth 6pm Evensong BCP

A reminder that reordering work is underway in the Church and therefore there is minimal heating. You are advised to dress warmly and bring a small blanket if you feel the need.

Anita, our organist has been offered the post of Director of Music at St Leonards in Hythe and has accepted. She will therefore be leaving at the end of this month. We wish her every success in her new post and thank her very warmly for 15 happy years as our organist and choir leader.

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



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.

LYMINGE

2nd February 11am Rev Gill Songer
9th February 10.15am Valley Service with Mr David Songer (incl. Holy Communion)
16th February 11am Mr Ralph Bradshaw
23rd February 11am Mr Hugh Burnham

RHODES MINNIS

2nd February 9.30am Rev Gill Songer
9th February 10.15am Valley Service at Lyminge with Mr David Songer
16th February 9.30am Mrs Val Redding
23rd February 9.30am Local Arrangement

Postling Church Services

2nd February No service in Postling
9th February 8.30am Morning Service
16th February 8.30am Holy Communion
23rd February No service in Postling

Rector's Message



Dear Villagers, It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas services, such as the Crib (Nativity), Carols by Candlelight, Christingle, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day services. Our churches really were beautiful places to be. I certainly felt blessed and I hope our services made your Christmas special too.

At Elham, the decorations have remained until 2nd February, The Feast of Candlemas, which marks the end of the Church's Christmas season. Many visitors coming in have commented, "It's nice to feel that Christmas is not finished."

Our churches will continue as places of prayer and worship, as faithful witnesses to the love of God made known to us in Jesus Christ. Whether we attend church or not, let's keep sharing goodwill, peace, joy and love to all. *Rev'd Carol Bates*

Lyminge Newsletter

Terms & Conditions: Copy deadline for next edition - 18 February 2025

Please email your copy to the editor (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 £9.50 per month or £95.00 per year. **Personal and charity adverts and articles** from £3 per month, or £30.00 per year. The annual rate offers 12 entries for the price of 10. Please make cheques payable to '**The Lyminge Association**'. If you do not have email, a typed paper-copy may be left with the payment at the Library. The Newsletter is printed by Canterbury Print & Mail.

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

Further details from Peter Barnes (editor) on 01303 863737 or pbarnes20@icloud.com

Etchinghill Update - February 2025

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ERA)

Chairman: David McCombe - 07939 076617 E-mail: dmccombel@gmail.com
Website: www.etchinghill.info Facebook: Etchinghill Residents

ETCHINGHILL FILM NIGHTS - "EMPIRE OF LIGHT": 15, 2022, Drama/Romance set in Margate. Etchinghill Village Hall; Monday 17th February; Doors Open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Starring Olivia Colman, Micheal Ward and Colin Firth.

Hilary is a cinema manager struggling with her mental health, and Stephen is a new employee longing to escape the provincial town where he faces daily adversity. Together they find a sense of belonging and experience the healing power of music, cinema, and community.

Entry fee is only £6 pp and includes a glass of wine, tea or coffee with biscuits and entry into a free raffle. New members are very welcome, simply register and pay on the night, there's no need to book.

News contact: Jacqui Blandford – 07543 966830 or email: jacqui.blandford@gmail.com



The Lyminge Festival 21st - 29th June 2025

District Councillors' Update - February 2025

We decided to do a joint report this month on the very important decision taken by KCC and Medway Council that will completely change our electoral landscape.

Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation

On 10 January 2025, Cllr Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council and Cllr Vince Maple Leader of Medway submitted an expression of interest to the Government asking that Kent and Medway be considered as a priority area for Devolution. The decision to put Kent forward was taken by KCC Cabinet Members at a meeting on 9 January.

Big changes lie ahead for local government in our area. Under the proposals there will be a directly elected mayor and all 14 councils in Kent will be abolished and replaced by a small number of much larger unitary authorities. The exact detail of what will come next is still to be determined. Although the Leader and Chief Executive of FHDC has attended many meetings, the decision to put Kent & Medway forward to the DPP programme was out of our hands.

Joining the Priority Programme could mean that this May's Local Elections will be postponed. In his letter of 16 December, Jim McMahon MP, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, stated that to deliver both devolution and reorganisation according to the exacting schedules of the Devolution Priority Programme he was minded to lay secondary legislation to postpone local elections from May 2025 to May 2026. Acceptance on to the Devolution Priority Programme will commit Kent and Medway to elections to a new Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) in May 2026 and implementation of local government reorganisation by either April 2027 or April 2028. It is understood that the Government will notify the Leaders of KCC and Medway by the end of January as to whether or not they have been selected for the Devolution Priority Programme.

It is expected that the Government will ask the 14 Kent Councils collectively to submit one (or more) schemes for the local government re-organisation. An indicative proposal will need to be submitted in March with a confirmed version in the autumn. At this point there will be a formal consultation with residents.

Reading the Devolution White Paper, we can only find one reference to Town and Parish Councils which is as follows - "We know people value the role of governance at the community scale and that can be a concern when local government is reorganised. We will therefore want to see stronger community arrangements when reorganisation happens in the way councils engage at a neighbourhood or area level. We will also rewire the relationship between town and parish councils and principal Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice."

This is just the beginning – there will be so much work to do. Please watch this space as we will provide regular updates on the situation. To view the KCC Full Council and Cabinet Meetings see Webcast library - [Kent County Council Webcasting](#) for the Devolution White Paper [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

Contact jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk and elainemartin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Age UK Hythe Lyminge & Ashford – I have been contacted by many residents over the last month concerning the closing of the Centre in Lyminge. I have again, been in contact with Officers at the District Council and I am awaiting a response as they are aware that the loss of the Café and Shop is of great concern to the Village.

Housing targets – at a recent Planning Briefing, we were informed that the Government housing target for our District has been increased from 735 per annum to 838 per annum! Currently the District is far below the target and has been for quite a few years. There has recently been a 'call for sites' and the Government is asking for Local Plans to be revised.

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



Following the sad news regarding the withdrawal of Age UK from Everist Court, Lyminge, a meeting is being called to discuss

A Community Centre for Lyminge??

This meeting is to outline what is needed to secure the continued use of the ground floor of the building including the Café and Charity Shop

7pm

11th February 2025

**The Methodist Church
Church Road, CT18 8JA**

Hosted by: The Lyminge Association

Letter to The Editor Regarding the Closure of Age UK, Lyminge:

Hi Peter,

On behalf of all villagers in and around Lyminge, we wish to say that the closure of Age UK, Lyminge is a great shock, particularly since we have only been given 3 months notice of its closure. Even the parish council hadn't any idea of this happening until it was announced. The centre is a very much needed/wanted part of the Lyminge and surrounding areas and functions very well as a community hub.

It is used regularly by the young, elderly and families. Some like to browse/buy from the shop while others come to meet friends and see a familiar face, as well as having something to eat and drink. The more vulnerable use it as an extension to their living rooms in order to meet friends and family.

The group activities that met regularly at the centre have now to find else where to meet. It will not be the same as when they were able to use the facilities in Age UK. They enjoyed sitting in the cafe after their activity, having a drink and something to eat and unwind.

This facility has now been taken away without any consultation either with them, the village or the surrounding areas that use it on a regular basis. Some of the activity leaders say they have found other venues but they are not the same as the cafe and the shop - the places with which everyone is familiar. The other venues suggested are not equipped for being socially welcoming, warm and providing something to eat and drink.

The withdrawal of the laundry facilities will leave clients having to travel out of the area to get their laundry done. It is well used particularly in the autumn/winter when the weather is unsuitable for drying washing. If they had increased their prices, we think clients would rather have paid than have to pay for travel.

The facilities provided by Age UK are wanted and the petition, signed by 350 must count for something. It is devastating to watch our regulars' faces left wondering where they will go once it is closed. It will have an affect on their wellbeing and mental health after being a part of their lives for many, many years. The facilities were in need of improvement to prevent people being shunted from room to room at short notice through poor planning. As for the Knit and Natter group, this was never a part of Age UK's facility; it was just a social group who met up every Monday afternoon for just that - to see others and have a drink and something to eat.

Let us hope something can be done to keep some form of hub within the building for all the reasons given above.

Yours

Signed: ***The Volunteers and the Village Residents.***

Letter to The Editor Regarding the Closure of Age UK, Lyminge:

To whom it may concern.

I am a mother of three and a grandmother of six. I started volunteering almost three years ago at the Lyminge hub, first by starting with ironing as I suffer with anxiety. Because the place is such a warm, friendly and welcoming place, my confidence grew and within a few months I began sorting donations and coordinating the running of the charity shop and serving the customers, 3 days a week.

Even though I don't live locally, in my opinion the centre is a very much needed/wanted part of the Lyminge/Elham community. It is used regularly by young, elderly and families. Some pop into the charity shop, others for a drink and a light lunch. The more vulnerable use it regularly as an extension of their living rooms to meet with friends and family. The carer of the dementia clients uses it as their safe place to have a coffee and chat with people that understand this terrible disease.

You also have regular keep fit, knit and natter, music groups, choir as well as other people that hire the hall. I think if the hub was utilised properly (I have a long list of ideas) the rent would be achievable. I have seen first hand the devastation, upset and effect it is having on people's mental health that the potential closure of the hub is causing on the people of your village after being a part of it for almost 20 years.

My plea is for you to try and help find a way to save this much needed and loved community hub. I know the 12 volunteers are all willing to stay on board to help.

Yours sincerely **XX**

Editor: The author of this letter wishes to remain anonymous, a request that I have honoured.

A Community Centre for Lyminge??

7pm 11th February 2025

The Methodist Church, Church Road, CT18 8JA

Letter to The Editor Regarding the Closure of Age UK, Lyminge:

From: The Chief Housing Officer, Folkestone and Hythe District Council

"I'm afraid there's little to update you on regarding the council's plans for Everist Court now that it's being handed back to us by Age UK. Our major works surveying Manager visited the building just before Christmas, and although the visit was brief some photos were taken which will enable us to update the stock condition data. Generally, the building looks in good condition; externally the property is nicely re-pointed and there is the new roof installed 3 years ago; internally the building is also in good condition. The last plans we have however will need to be amended, as rooms have been used for different purposes in the last 20 years. This all takes time I'm afraid.

There is a great deal of work for us to do before we can even consider what would need to be done to reconvert the property back into flats. It's not just considering the structural changes needed, but also utilities would need to be moved and the ground floor would need to be significantly reconfigured to create suitable dwellings. But none of this is insurmountable, as we are still very keen to try to revert the building's use back to much needed social housing homes in Lyminge for local people, if this can be done.

Whilst I recognise that the community want to try to keep the shop and café as a community hub, and in fact the Parish Council have also approached us to make use of the downstairs in the short term whilst proposals are made up for the longer term use of the whole building, I'm afraid that it's a lot of responsibility for anyone to continue to make use of the building as they would need to keep the fire alarm, lift, boilers, fire extinguishers, etc. compliant, maintained and serviced. Without a formal lease agreement in place and Age UK managing the building on a day-to-day basis, I'm afraid the council simply do not have the resources to be able to keep the building accessible for the general public.

Everything is still at a very early stage and there are no firm plans in place from our side, let alone time-scales.

I am sorry that I can't give you any more info. but we will be holding regular internal meetings over the next few weeks/months to go through everything that needs to be considered before making any firm proposals."



PIANO LESSONS IN ETCHINGHILL

Children or adults welcome
Beginner to advanced level

Play for fun

Exams offered

Music theory

Online lessons also available

Reasonable rates

Please contact Kathy Robinson DipLCM

Tel.: 07930919340

Email: kathyhct@gmail.com



Expressions of Interest Invited for Temporary Post as Clerk for Lyminge Primary School

Lyminge Church of England Primary school is seeking a suitable person to provide administrative and organisational support to the governing Board. As a minimum we require someone who can prepare for, administrate and minute our full Board meetings that take place once a term (six meetings a year).

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in fulfilling this role on a temporary basis and can demonstrate the appropriate skills. Current or previous school clerking experience is desirable but not essential. The post requires about 10 hours' work for each meeting. Hours are flexible, apart from attendance at the Board meetings. The post will start as soon as possible and is likely to last for six months but may be extended.

If you are interested in the role please send an expression of interest detailing your relevant skills and experience to the Chair of Governors by email to the school office at:

office@lyminge.kent.sch.uk

We are also still looking for a new school governor, so please do contact the Chair if you would like to know more.

Lyminge Judo Club

(Bushido Club registered)

We are a small friendly village club. We welcome and encourage both novices and skilled players and train every Monday evening at Lyminge Village Hall from 6.30pm. Open to all ages from 6 upwards - no upper age limit. Juniors £2.50 per week; Seniors £3.50 per week. First session free, with no obligation.



Contact: **Craig Munn**

email: craig.munn1@yahoo.com

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Lymingejudoclub

Lyminge Bridge Club

Have you ever thought you would like to learn to play bridge but are not quite sure if it is for you?

Come along to Lyminge Bridge Club to meet some of the members who are happy to give free lessons. The support will be for anyone who has never played before or for those of you who can play but would like a recap.

We meet at Lyminge Bowls Club 10am-12noon on a Monday morning.

It is only £2 which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

If you want a chat beforehand, then please call Janet on 01303 863177 or email her on janet@rhodesminnis.org.uk



LYMINGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4 March
at The Tayne Centre, Church Road, Lyminge CT18 8JA



The Battle of Sandwich in 1217

Speaker: **Len Howell**

Members Free

New members and visitors are always welcome

Visitors: £5 Payable on the door

Newly published: **Lyminge a History Part 14**

See our website for details: www.lymingehistoricalsociety.co.uk

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

We accept payments by cash or card.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

The Society is taking its normal winter break in January and February. Our monthly meetings will resume in March and will continue later with:

1 April: Jane Austen in Kent - John Buss

6 May: The Tithe War in the Elham Valley 1931-36 - Dr John Bulatis

Rhodes Minnis Circle

Our last meeting was our Christmas party in December, and we were delightfully entertained by Ann Finney in support of Pilgrims Hospices.

We will be meeting on 26th February for our annual quiz. The meeting is at Rhodes Minnis Village Hall at 2.30pm and visitors are very welcome to join us.

For further information contact: **Lis Hirlemann 07590 913856**



LYMINGE GARDENERS' SOCIETY

Programme of Events - 2025

***Non-members very welcome.
Come along and join us for some interesting talks and
visits throughout the year. Talks £5 per talk for non-
members, including refreshments. Visits payable to the
garden on arrival and the cost varies.***

***For more information email: lymingegardeners@gmail.com
or telephone - Anne Gould on 07703 149 008
or Heather Dunford on 07427 664 084***

Tuesday 18 th March 7:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Talk by Anna from Anna's Country Flowers
Saturday 29 th March 12:30pm until 3:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Spring Show and Plant Sale
Tuesday 15 th April 7:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Talk by Ed Flint "what makes a good garden?"
Tuesday 20 th May – 2:30pm at White Lodge, Loughborough Lane	Garden Party (Members Only)
Tuesday 17 th June – 2:30pm at Hares Farm Oast, Goldups Lane, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent, England CT4 8JG,	Anna's Country Flowers - Visit and Tea
21 st – 22 nd June – Times Tba	Garden Safari (part of Lyminge Festival)
Tuesday 15 th July – 2:30pm at The Orangery, Canterbury, Kent, CT4 7DB	The Orangery – Visit and Tea
Saturday 19 th July 12:30pm until 3:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Summer Show and Plant Sale
Tuesday 16 th September – 7:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Talk by Kevin Toher "A Look at Pruning – The how and when and why"
Tuesday 21 st October 7:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Talk by Jacqueline Aviolet "Herbs - culinary, cultivation & folklore"
Tuesday 18 th November – 7:30pm at The Tayne Centre	Steve and Derek – Gardener's Question Time
December – Time and Venue to be confirmed	Christmas Meal (Members Only)



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£6 pp - includes Tea/Coffee

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Registered charity number 1125274. Company number 6589817. © Age UK Hythe, Lyminge and Ashford 2023.

AGE UK - LYMINGE

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We can help guide you along your journey



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COMMENCING SATURDAY 8th March 2025

8 Sessions – 1 per week

TIME: 10.00am – 12.30pm

Location: TBC but will be in Hythe or surrounding area

Learn some new skills to set yourself up for a happier, healthier New Year

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Email: ejgarrard2712@gmail.com

<https://ellengarrard.co.uk/>



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I am an Advanced Practice Children's Physiotherapist in Musculoskeletal and Orthopaedics, specialising in children between the ages of 0-16 years.

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Pensioner Just Missing Out Scheme



Eligible households can apply for vouchers worth £200 which can be used to help pay for food, energy or both.

You will be eligible for assistance if you:

- or a partner living with you is aged 66 or over
- are a Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bexley, or Bromley)
- have an annual household income (before tax) between £11,343.80 (£17,313.40 for a joint household income) and £40,000
- do not have more than £1000 in savings
- are not in receipt of Pension Credit

To apply, please use the QR code or visit www.kent.gov.uk/justmissingout

If you're not able to apply online, please contact your local Citizens Advice branch for support.

This scheme is funded by the UK Governments Household Support Fund and will close on 28 February 2025 or when all funds are spent.



The Church Road Surgery, Lyminge Patients' Participation Group

The Church Road Surgery is relaunching a Patient Participation Group (PPG) to ensure their services meet the needs of their patients. The group will help create a closer connection between staff and patients by providing valuable feedback and insights.

Here's a summary of the key details:

- **Purpose:** To help ensure that the surgery's services are responsive to patient needs and foster a closer relationship between patients and staff.
- **Meetings:** Held quarterly, on a Wednesday at 5pm for one hour, at the surgery.
- **Objective:** To recruit a diverse group of patients to represent the local community.

It's a great opportunity for anyone looking to have a say in the way healthcare services are delivered in their community.

If you would like to be involved then please email **Peter Barnes** pbarnes20@icloud.com.

THE LYMINGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH

Update following our report in the January Newsletter.

The Lyminge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has, regrettably, made little progress in the past month. The impediments mentioned in the closing paragraphs of the earlier report remain in place.

Representatives of the Steering Group have attended Lyminge Parish Council (LPC) committee meetings, and it is to be noted that one LPC sub-committee (Community Engagement and Events) meeting that took place on the 7th October 2024 agreed to look at the Neighbourhood Plan. This sub-committee met again on the 2nd December with an agenda item 'to start mapping out ideas'. At the time of writing this report the draft minutes of their meeting are not yet available online but it is to be hoped that some real progress will be made soon.

Currently the Steering Group along with the LPC are awaiting clarification of the new powers the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government introduced on 12th December 2024 (online at gov.uk and search for 'Guidance on Plan Making', Plan Making 12/12/24 para 085) regarding, in part, local planning regulations.

If, and when, the Steering Group has more news for you, further updates will appear in future Newsletters.

ETCHINGHILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Film Night

Monday 17th February
"EMPIRE OF LIGHT"
15 - 2022 - Run Time: 1hr 55m

Etchinghill Village Hall - 7 for 7.30pm
Entrance Fee £6pp
Open to new and existing members
Free Refreshments and Raffle


www.etchinghill.info

COMMUNITY SOCIAL

in the Bowls Club

10am to 12noon

Thursday FEBRUARY 27th

Thursday MARCH 20th

DOMINOES - SCRABBLE

£2 inc. Tea / Coffee

Coach & Horses



Steak night Wednesday 19th February 5.30 - 8pm
Thai night Wednesday 19th March 5.30 - 8pm
Darts open Saturday 22nd February 4pm start
Call for more information 01303 901011
Booking is essential

 Find us on **facebook**


the fifth trust
supporting adults with learning disabilities

Fifth Trust Update
www.fifthtrust.co.uk

Do you have a bit of spare time and want to make a difference? We'd love to hear from you!

We're always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to support any of our 20 activity sessions, and no matter your background or experience, there's a way for you to get involved. Whether you're getting your hands dirty in the allotments during our horticulture sessions or offering guidance in an art session, your contribution helps us create a welcoming, enriching environment for our students with learning disabilities.

We run sessions every weekday with morning and afternoon slots. Even just one morning a week will make a huge difference. Here's a glimpse of what volunteering might look like: helping students plant and grow in our horticulture sessions; teaching the basics of playing instruments in our music sessions; supporting creative projects in media sessions; and much more!

As a thank you, every volunteer becomes a Friend of The Fifth Trust, with access to exclusive perks like 10% off at our café and garden centre.

Interested? Drop an email to: michael.james@fifthtrust.co.uk and we'll be in touch!

LYMINGE AND ELHAM VALLEY STROKE SUPPORT

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

Come and join our informal support group. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month (except Bank Holidays) usually at The Coach and Horses between 10:00am and Noon

3rd February 2025
Talk on Bee-Keeping + Honey for Sale

February Meetings



17th February 2025
Get together followed by lunch

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
or Telephone Fran on 07846 177 409 or Heather on 07427 664 084

THE TOWER THEATRE FOLKESTONE

THE TOWER THEATRE AFHODS
THE AMATEUR THEATRE SOCIETY & DRAMATIC SOCIETY LTD

<p>DISABILITY Friday 24 Jan - 7pm</p>	<p>Talking Heads by Alan Bennett Fri 14 - Sat 15 Feb - 2.30pm & 7.30pm</p>	<p>Seriously Collins Saturday 22 March - 7.30pm</p>
<p>Mr Sleepybum Wednesday 19 Feb - 11am & 2pm</p>	<p>STEEL MAGNOLIAS BY ROBERT HARLING Thur 13 - Sat 15 March - 2.30pm & 7.30pm</p>	<p>The Counterfeit Sixties Saturday 29 March - 7.30pm</p>
<p>Happy Box of Imps Friday 21 Feb - 7.30pm</p>	<p>Bad Dates by Theresa Rebeck Thur 3 - Saturday 5 April - 7.30pm</p>	<p>NEWSIES JR. 11 - 12 April - 2pm & 7pm</p>
<p>THE ULTIMATE BUBBLE SHOW Saturday 22 Feb - 12pm & 3pm</p>	<p>OPERA BOYS Friday 28 Feb - 7.30pm</p>	<p>Tony Stockwell psychic medium Wednesday 30 April - 7.30pm</p>
<p>TOM WHITE AS ED SHEERAN AND LEWIS CAPALDI Saturday 3 May - 7.30pm</p>	<p>For full details of all our forthcoming shows and to book tickets, please visit towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk or call the box office on 01303 223925 The Tower Theatre, North Road, Shorncliffe, Folkestone CT20 3HL Registered Charity 1180504</p>	

Every 4th Sunday
9.30 - 12.30

LYMINGE ARTISAN & FARMERS MARKET

26 JAN
23 FEB
23 MAR
27 APR

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The Lyminge Festival 21st - 29th June 2025



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LYMINGE PARISH COUNCIL

For Lyminge, Etchinghill and Rhodes Minnis

Council news

We are currently ironing out some issues with our access to essential Lyminge Village Hall information, please be patient while we work on this and contact us if you have any questions!

We are working alongside FHDC and members of the parish on the Neighbourhood Plan and following a very positive meeting with FHDC this month, we are excited to carry on with the work necessary to see the plan through. Please look out for councillors at the monthly Farmers' Market held at Lyminge Village Hall on the 4th Sunday of each month. We will have different information each month and will ask for varying and important input from yourselves each session. The Neighbourhood Plan is an exciting opportunity for us all to shape the future of the parish.

Our handyman has been dealing with some issues in Rhodes Minnis recently and while the project list is still quite long, we would love for you to give us more ideas!

Meeting dates

Finance and Administration - February 3rd - 18:30 - Lyminge Village Hall

Community Engagement and Events - February 3rd - 19:30 - Lyminge Village Hall

Full Council - February 10th - 19:00 - Lyminge Village Hall

Planning and Licencing - February 20th - 9:30 - Etchinghill Village Hall

Any additional meetings will be on our noticeboards/website.

Rhodes Minnis Play Park

We are actively engaging Rhodes Minnis residents to have their say on the refurbishment/replacement of Rhodes Minnis Play Park, following meetings with residents in RM Methodist Church, the most recent being in early January. The following has been suggested:

- 1. To move the play park to nearer the Village Hall*
- 2. To surface the entire area similarly to Meriden Park*
- 3. To have at minimum a double swing and multi play item*

We have a budget of £70,000 set aside for the refurbishment and will happily research any potential issues including seeking planning permission and ensuring that we are legally permitted to move the park.

We would like to hear from YOU, what would your dream park look like and where would it be?



CONTACT INFORMATION

General - clerk@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

Handyman - fred@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

Neighbourhood Plan -

neighbourhoodplan@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk

2025-2026 BUDGET

At our January Full Council meeting, we approved the precept request amount and budget for the 2025-2026 financial year.

We have taken on board feedback from previous years and tried to give as much information as possible when showing our budget for the upcoming year.

The overall precept request for the upcoming financial year is **£152,349**. This figure remains the same as the precept amount in 2024-2025, however due to a decreased tax base it will still show as an increase of 1.62%. Once the homes from the two Pentland developments are occupied we should expect to see an increase in the tax base.

Three different categories make up our expenditure considerations and we will give more detail on each of those categories.

ADMINISTRATION: £55,850

This relates mostly to staff costs, expenses and office costs/sundries i.e printing etc. Unfortunately the changes to minimum wage and NI contributions have impacted us and previous budgets didn't include provisions for HMRC payments etc so we have had to introduce that going forward.

For more information on our budget please visit our website or see our noticeboards.

FUNCTIONS: £31,649

This relates to the council's main functions, for example bin emptying, meeting costs, insurance, committee budgets etc. This figure is the lowest of the three at present as one of our main ambitions is to prioritise the maintenance and replacement of our assets while keeping the precept at a similar amount.

ASSET MAINTENANCE: £69,000

This category is relatively self explanatory and includes the refurbishment/replacement of Rhodes Minnis Play Park, our grounds maintenance annual contract, improvements to the allotments, historic preservation projects and general asset maintenance. £10,000 of this has been budgeted to replace some of the more neglected benches in the parish.

In addition to those three categories, we also consider our income for the year. We have placed some funds into a savings account which has a high interest rate and should allow us to see around £4000 in interest over the year. Though a small amount, this could represent a significant project through the year. We also consider our reserves which allows us to keep money aside for emergencies and to allocate to specific projects, i.e. election costs, public improvement projects.



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.

Contact: thoughtfulfoodgroup@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram [@thoughtfulfoodgroup](https://www.instagram.com/thoughtfulfoodgroup)
Next **Thoughtful Food** meeting, **Tuesday 4th February, 7.30pm**, at the Coach & Horses Public House

We are all itching to get out in the garden now and get this year properly started.

Jobs to do in the Veg Garden in February

- Prepare your seed beds ready for sowing. If you have an already established veg plot you could add a weed membrane such as a watered layer of newspaper or cardboard before adding around 6cm of compost material,
- For new seed beds, gently open up the soil with a garden fork, don't dig over. Water well before adding organic matter such as compost or animal waste. Water in before adding a weed proof membrane (as above) and adding at least 6cm of organic material over the top.
- Chit your early potato crops (new potatoes) by placing each tuber into the wells of empty egg boxes and placing on a window ledge to get light. This encourages them to sprout, getting a head start before planting out in late March. Early potato crops will be ready for harvesting in around 12 weeks, so by midsummer the bed can be cleared ready for another crop such as courgettes or beans.



Date for Your Diaries

The ever popular **Pick Up A Plant** (PUAP) will be held on the **10th May** this year, time and venue to be confirmed. Thank you to all who support this event by donating plants and helping run the stall and coming to collect your free plants. We hope it will continue to grow with your generosity.



Impacts of Ultra Processed Food

One of the many negative impacts of Ultra Processed Food is the packaging. Thoughtful Food is resolved to focus on waste this year and wondered how we can avoid heavily packaged food.

Meg relays her experience of a recently 'thoughtful' food shop.

Once fruit is picked off a tree or vegetables pulled from the soil it is necessary to keep them as fresh as possible until sold. Following soil and debris being brushed off to improve its appearance, the produce is packaged to prevent bruising from being dropped and jiggled back. The packaging needed though can be minimal especially if the produce is local and the transport distance short. Since ultra processed and processed food is generally more heavily packaged, an opportunity presents itself. Reduce the packaged food you buy and increase your fruit and veggie intake. This not only improves your nutrition but reduces the amount of packaging you have to discard. Simple!! Maybe not!

I shopped today and because I wanted to reduce packed items, I had to have white button mushrooms (all other types were highly packaged) and the only unpackaged apples were very large Braeburn (from New Zealand). The broccoli was wrapped in plastic and the only unpackaged potatoes were whites. Why shop somewhere where most things are packaged when you can shop at a veggie market stall or farmers market? The reason is more complicated than you might think. We humans are creatures of habit and this is reflected in how we shop, which is dictated

- *by routines and habits created by our environment and supermarkets*
- *by advertising, culture, ease of access and of course cost*

Planning meals is an effective way of cutting down on food waste.

Utilizing fresh produce from a veggie stall or farmers market is a major way forward and supports our local farmers.

Home Made Granola

Most supermarkets dedicate a whole aisle of boxes of sweets cleverly marketed as breakfast cereals. Nearly all are ultra-processed. In an attempt to eat a healthier option, we head for the granola section, but on careful inspection they have high fat and sugar contents. Here is one you can make easily yourself and by purchasing the ingredients at a shop like U Weigh in Hythe, you will have good quality, reasonably priced produce with minimal packaging and definitely no plastic.

- 200grms of pumpkin seeds and 200grms of sunflower seeds finely ground in a food processor so they look like flour
- 100grms walnuts roughly chopped
- 100grms of stoned dates roughly chopped
- 200grms of jumbo oats. If you can get it, 200grms of millet. If not, any grain will do, oat bran, wheat bran.....or 400grms jumbo oats.
- 50grms chia seeds (mixed with 50mls of water and left to soak for 30 minutes)
- Around 50mls olive oil
- A drizzle of honey, or for a more exotic flavour, a drizzle of pomegranate, sour cherry or date molasses.



Place all of the dry ingredients into a roasting tin. Add the Chia seeds. Mix. Drizzle over the oil, honey or molasses. Stir in. Roast in a cool oven (140°C) for about 45 minutes, stirring after 20 and 40 minutes to blend together.

It's worth making a bigger batch of this to save on effort and it gets eaten very quickly. It can be frozen.

Do any Air Fryer devotees fancy making this in an air fryer, reducing energy usage? Message us on social media to say how it goes.

Very Best Wishes from Thoughtful Food



Global Temperature Update: 2024 was Hottest Year on Record

According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (<https://climate.copernicus.eu/global-climate-highlights-2024>), 2024 was the hottest year on record, probably the hottest for about 130,000 years, breaking the previous record set in 2023. 2023 and 2024 were both El Niño years, a weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which tends to increase global temperatures, but that phase has now ended. 2025 will therefore probably be slightly cooler, but still

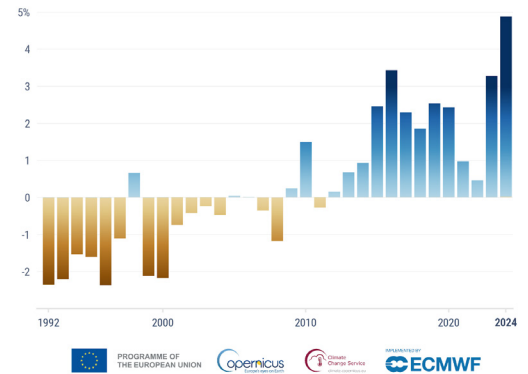
hotter than every single other year in human history aside from 2023 and 2024.

2024 was also record-breaking for the amount of water in the atmosphere. This is important because water vapour significantly contributes to Earth's natural greenhouse effect. Warmer sea temperatures encourage more evaporation, and a warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture. In turn, the greater water vapour content further amplifies warming, a process known as 'temperature-water vapour feedback'. Increased moisture in the atmosphere also heightens the potential for extreme rainfall events and provides energy for more intense tropical storms.



Record amount of water vapour in the atmosphere in 2024

Annual global mean total column water vapour anomalies for 60°S–60°N
Data: ERA5 • Reference period: 1992–2020 • Credit: C3S/ECMWF



Bumblebee Conservation

According to the charity Bumblebee Conservation Trust, 2024 was the worst year on record for UK bumblebees. Their “BeeWalk” data shows that “on average bumblebees were down 22% nationwide; the cold, damp weather that persisted throughout spring and summer sparked a difficult time for bumblebees, which were already struggling due to the long-term challenges they face: habitat loss, fewer flowers, and the continued use of bee-killing pesticides. The charity is looking for more supporters to help them act to:

- Create and restore wild flower habitats.
- Work with landowners and farmers to create more habitat for bumblebees.
- Study the effects of climate change on bumblebees and research ways to reverse their decline.
- Influence decision makers to prioritise #PollinatorsNotPesticides.
- Lead the fight to secure a future for bumblebees.

For more see: <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/join-and-donate/join/>

Bumblebee Monitoring in Lyminge

In terms of bumblebee action here in Lyminge Parish, last year we set up two local “bee walks” to regularly monitor our local bumblebee populations and consequently help inform local land management for pollinators, including of our local community green spaces. To participate you will need to sign up to <https://beewalk.org.uk/> which is a national bee monitoring programme set up by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Once you are registered you can set up your own regular “bee walk”, which needs to be approximately 1 to 2 km long, or you can contact the Bee Walk team and ask them to add you to the team for monitoring the two walks we have set up in Lyminge. One is called “**Lyminge Court Lodge Green and adjacent fields**” and the other is “**Lyminge Tayne Field and churchyard**”. Feel free to contact tony.king@lymingeparishcouncil.org.uk for further guidance or support.

Court Lodge Green Management

We have made some recommendations to Lyminge Parish Council to modify slightly the mowing regime of Court Lodge Green, which we expect the Council to implement this year. The main change proposed is to undertake the annual cut and collect in two parts, the lower part of the field earlier in the year, prior to the seeding of the hogweed, and the rest of the field later, following the seeding of the red bartsia. This will help ensure more diversity of winter cover for wildlife, with the area mown earlier in the year expected to grow back more prior to winter than the area mown later, and should help reduce the dominance of the hogweed on the field whilst continuing to encourage the red bartsia, which is the only source of pollen for the red bartsia bee and which is therefore critical for the continued survival of this rare bee locally.

Letter to The Editor:

Good afternoon Peter,

As a pensioner living in Lyminge, this Petition may be of interest to the readers of the Newsletter and others who are on the "old" UK State Pension which is now a lot less than the "new" State Pension .

If any UK pensioners wish to sign this "active" petition, then please follow the link below

<https://petition.parliament.uk/700122>

Also, please forward it to people you may know and who may be on the "old" State Pension or have relatives and friends who may wish to support this petition.

You are advised to check your individual work pension circumstances where SERPS/SP2 & Graduated Pension sums are involved as this may affect your decision .

This petition expires 25 May 2025

Signed: **Steve Sparkes**

[Lyminge Midsummer Festival](#)

Saturday 21 June to
Sunday 29 June

incorporating [Lyminge Garden Safari](#)

*Now's the time to start
planning and planting for this
prestigious event*



CONNECTION
TO
COMMUNITY

**Lyminge
Friends**

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, 05 February** and will be followed by a **Quiz and Coffee and Cake**.

Our first speaker of 2025 is **Veronica King** with "**The Stories of 38 Years as a FEMALE Private Investigator**" this meeting is on **Wednesday, 05 March**.

On **Wednesday, 02 April** we will hear about **The Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission** both in the UK and around the World.

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**.

Editor: pbarnes20@icloud.com

19

A Little More Joy Eco-friendly gift boxes



Vibrant, environmentally conscious gift boxes that are kind to the planet. We also have a build your own option for a more bespoke gift.

10% Discount on your first order (**welcome10**).
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Contacts:

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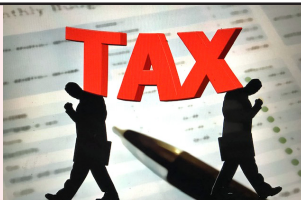
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Lyminge Friends enjoyed a wonderful lunch at The Gatekeeper in January. Good food, good company and good fun.



Would you believe it that...



This photo taken in 2002 shows Tony with two orphan Gorillas in the Congo.

....**Tony King, a Lyminge resident**, has been working with the local charity, The Aspinall Foundation, for over 20 years. This included five years in the Congo where he met his wife, Christelle. They were both working to save gorillas orphaned by the bush-meat trade, and worked to rehabilitate them, eventually reintroducing them back into the wild.

Tony regularly returns to the project to help monitor the gorillas and develop the sustainability of the management project for protecting the Reserve which the gorillas now call home.

The larger gorilla in the first photo, taken back with Tony in 2002, is called Koto; she is now one of the oldest gorillas in the Reserve and has had several babies since being released. Her first, born in 2006 and named Elonga, is now a magnificent red-headed adult male silverback, while her youngest, born in September 2023, is still seen riding on her back as they explore the forest-savannah mosaic of the Reserve.



Koto's son, Elonga, taken during a trip last year.



This is a camera-trap image of Koto taken in January 2024 with her latest baby.



LYMINGE THEN AND NOW

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



We are grateful this month to former resident Paul Sampson who has provided a photo taken from the church tower by his late father the Rev DWJ Sampson, probably in the late 1950s.

The photo on the left is a record of dramatic change in this core location within the village. The blast from a doodlebug flying bomb in 1944 caused substantial damage, devastating the buildings that once stood here. The two pairs of semi-detached houses in the High Street, Old Forge Cottage on the crossroads opposite the pub and the Methodist Church were all new at this time, built only a few years before the photo was taken to replace the war-damaged buildings that had had to be demolished. In the years since the 1950s, additional houses have also been built behind, increasing housing density with in-fill in a way that has been seen right across the village. In the foreground it is just possible to see the roof of the old primary school, which was demolished later in the 1990s and has since been replaced by the houses of Church Court.

Further in the distance, the most obvious change from the 1950s is the amount of green field that has disappeared and the number of trees that have grown up. To the left the fields known as Silverlands were still pasture in the 1950s, yet to accommodate the building development that still bears this field name, and Mount Pleasant was at this time just the name of the 17th Century house that still stands on Canterbury Road below Yew Tree Cross. In the picture on the right, the houses of Mount Pleasant Close can be seen to the left in the middle distance, clustered behind Robus House, which is also visible to the left of the picture of the 1950s within a stand of trees. On the right of this picture, Tayne Field was also still pasture, and provided grazing for sheep although none are visible in this picture. The site of the new primary school is clearly visible as an open stretch of grass. Now the site not only contains the school but is also screened by trees, as is the edge of Tayne Field. It is notable how this aspect of the village has been transformed by the growth in tree cover over the past half century or so.



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