



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS



**LYMPNE
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2025**



DELIVERED TO HOMES
IN LYMPNE,
NEWINGREEN
COURT-AT-STREET
AND
WEST HYTHE ROAD

IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE
CHRISTMAS FAIR, SPEDWATCH,
VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES
AND MUCH MORE!

VISIT SANTA

At Lymgne Village Hall
Christmas Fair

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
1 PM - 4PM

£10 per child

To include a small gift from Santa and
festive activities



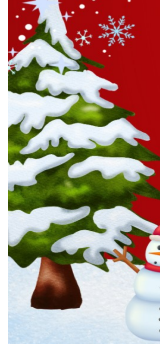
PRE-BOOKING ADVISED

Lymgne Village Hall Christmas Fair

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER

1 PM - 4PM

CRAFTS & GIFTS
REFRESHMENTS



VISIT SANTA : PRE-BOOK USING THE QR CODE



Carols at the Castle

OPEN FROM
4.30PM
Carols from 6 PM

Events during the

Festive Season

at Lymgne Castle



Saturday 29th November - Christmas Craft Fair - 12pm - 4pm

Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th December
Meet Father Christmas and his elves

Saturday 13th December
Casino Party Night - £75 per head
Includes Arrival drink, 2 course meal, casino entertainment and disco

Sunday 21st December
Carols at the Castle
The most magical event. Open from 4:30pm

Festive Lunches - £42 per head
Includes 3 course festive meal & welcome drink
Thursday 4th December and Friday 5th December
Sittings at 12:30pm and 3pm

Friday 9th January - Music Bingo
New Year, new games! Same format, same price!
£5 for 4 games, supporting Lymgne Village Primary School
Games start at 6:30pm

For more details or to book, please contact us on 01303 533533
or email enquiries@lympnecastle.com

HELP NEEDED- COULD YOU DELIVER THE NEWS-
LETTER TO RESIDENTS IN COURT-AT-STREET
If you could spare some time once a month to deliver
34 newsletters please contact the parish clerk on
clerk@lympneparishcouncil.gov.uk- Thankyou



COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

After 12 years, **yes 12 years**, of being the coordinator for Lympne Community Speed watch Charles Donaldson is standing down, although he may don his reflective jacket to assist in future.

So, do you want to make a difference to road safety in Lympne, have you got what it takes to coordinate our volunteers and keep this very important deterrent against speeding through our village at bay!

We are looking for someone who can take on this voluntary role for the Parish. The role involves arranging speed checks, looking after the speed indication device and liaising with Kent Police who support this initiative throughout the County.

You will get full training and support to get set up and before you know it you will be able to say you are playing your part in making our roads safer. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@lympneparishcouncil.gov.uk The Parish Council thank Charles for his commitment to the Parish over the past 12 years.



Lympne Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall was held on Tuesday November 11th in the Hall. The Chairman, Phil Scrivener was able to congratulate everyone on a

successful year. Both the Halls were being well used by a wide variety of groups, and finances were easily covering costs and allowing maintenance work and improvements to be made.

During the year sound deadening tiles had been fitted in the Harry Margary to improve the acoustics. Weatherboarding on the original Hall has been repaired. Plans for the future include redecoration of the Harry Margary Hall and the redevelopment of the garden area to the rear of the Hall.

Fundraising was successful with a Christmas Fayre, a Jumble sale and Summer Fayre. Money raised was donated to the Playing Field Redevelopment Fund. Michael Boor was able to give further good news about the Playing Field, as all being well, work will be starting in the New Year to install some of the new play equipment.

The meeting thanked Phil, the Treasurer Dave Martin, Gary Lukehurst the Hall Manager and Elliot Kriehn the retiring booking Clerk as well as the other members of the Committee for their hard work. The committee need members! If you would like to join the gang. Get in touch with Phil Scrivener phil@lympnevillagehall.co.uk

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Lympne Guides and Brownies

It's Panto Time!! Oh no it isn't!
Oh yes it is!

Beauty and the Beast

on Saturday January 17th.

Lympne Village Hall. 2.30pm and 7 pm.

Tickets available after Christmas.

*Stuck for that special Christmas gift.
How about An RYA Powerboat
training course voucher*

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St Stephen's Church Services in December

Sun 7th Dec	11am Holy Communion
Sun 14th Dec	11am Family Nativity Service
Sun 21st Dec	11am Holy Communion 6pm Carols at the Castle
Christmas Eve Wed 24th Dec	3pm Crib Service 7pm Blue Christmas Service
Sun 28 th Dec	11am Holy Communion

Changes on Christmas Eve

Note that on Christmas Eve, instead of a midnight service there will be a **family friendly crib service** at 3pm in the afternoon for everyone. Join us for a traditional start to Christmas - listening to the Christmas Story and singing favourite carols.

Later on Christmas Eve at 7pm there will be a Blue Christmas Service for those who find Christmas a painful time. This gentle service offers space for reflection, prayer and quiet hope. Open to all.

There will be no midnight service at Lympe church this year. For those who want a midnight communion service, there is one at 11:30pm at Saltwood church, as well as a morning service at 10am on Christmas Day also at Saltwood church.

See elsewhere in this magazine for info on Coffee morning on Sat 13th and Carols at the Castle on Sunday 21st



A Christmas Message of Hope

At Christmas we celebrate light breaking into darkness, and love overcoming fear.

In a world that can feel uncertain, the message of the manger remains the same - that hope is born among us, not in power or wealth, but in humility and peace.

May the light of Christ bring comfort to the weary, joy to the anxious, and courage to all who seek a better tomorrow. This Christmas, may hope find a home in every heart.



The Lympe & Saltwood
Diocese

Family Nativity Service

Sunday 14th December
at 11am



Crib Service

Christmas Eve
December 24th at 3pm

Join us for a family friendly service
to celebrate the Joy of Christmas



Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve, December 24th
at 7pm

This service is for anyone who finds
the Christmas season difficult.
Join us for a time of reflection & hope.

LYMPNE AIRFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

Our first presentation of 2026 is on January 6th and will be presented by David Goldsmith who will be telling us about Lympe & Cross Channel Airliners 1919 - 1939 demonstrating that the post war cross channel passenger flights were nothing new at the time.

Our meetings start at 7.30pm at Lympe Church. Doors open 6.30pm. Admission £3. Refreshments available. This month, we look at the largely forgotten post war airline to operate from Lympe from 1947, Air Kruise.

Air Kruise - Lympe's First Airline

By John Simpson

In the post war period, civil airlines started to emerge and Lympe was an early location for this travel boom. *Silver City* and *Skyways* are often remembered in this respect, but there was a third which predated their respective operations at Lympe. The first of these to operate from Lympe was *Air Kruise (Kent) Ltd.*, formed by W/C Hugh Kennard, an experienced RAF pilot who had served throughout WW2 with distinction. Kennard also made a name for himself post war in the *Royal Auxiliary Air Force* and at the helm of another Lympe Airfield aviation company, *Skyfotos*. He took the positions of Chairman and Managing Director. The first activities for *Air Kruise* formed in the summer of 1946 were pleasure flying and air charter work with a Miles Messenger and Percival Q6.

The first air charter flights across the Channel to France and Belgium were flown in 1947 after an Airspeed Consul was added in February of the same year. In April 1950 the first De Havilland Dragon Rapide was added to the fleet and from the 15th July a scheduled service flown three times a day to Le Touquet. With the addition of a second Rapide a new Chief Pilot, Captain P. Cowell was also appointed.

On the 27th June a 21 year lease was taken on Ramsgate Airport by Hugh Kennard. A new name *Trans Channel Airways* was also introduced. Aircraft continued to use Lympe, but now wearing both *Air Kruise* and *Trans Channel Airways* markings. In 1953 Ramsgate became the main base and *Air Kruise* were taken over by *British Aviation Services* trading as *Britavia*, who were also the owners of Lympe based airline *Silver City*. Kennard joined the *BAS* board. At this time two Dakotas had been added to the fleet.

Flights were now flying from Lympe to Ostend, Le Touquet, Basle, Zurich and Birmingham. Two more Dakotas were added for charter work. Later aircraft included the Handley Page Herald and a single Bristol 170 Freighter. Short pleasure flights were also undertaken at Lympe. Local schoolboy at the time, Barry Danson remembers flying on a ten shillings trip with his parents from Lympe flying over Romney Marsh and Folkestone Harbour, then back to Lympe. He also remembered flying in the *Air Kruise* Bristol Freighter to Jersey via Guernsey.

With *Silver City* transferring their operations to Lydd Ferryfield in October 1954, *Air Kruise* naturally followed suit. By 1958 the *Air Kruise* name disappeared being absorbed into *Silver City*. They were formally wound up in 1962.

FOR INFO -Contact: John Simpson on
07508 708725 or email:
johnsimpson43@btinternet.com

LYMPNE FELLOWSHIP : Our November meeting saw us making a Christmas Craft Snowman led by our own Rosemarie Hoad. Rosemarie had done all the preparation for us, much to my relief, crafts not being one of my strong points. With careful instructions we all successfully made perfectly acceptable snowmen. Our grateful thanks to Rosemarie. Our December meeting is our Christmas Party which is definitely something to look forward to.

Lympe Fellowship normally meets at 1.15pm in the Harry Margary Hall on the 2nd Thursday of the month, with a programme of interesting and informative talks and activities. For further information about our group, please contact Jill Page on 07846 819693.

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, LYMPNE



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER 2025

10.30AM - 12.30PM

- > Join us for coffee and festive cakes & bakes
- > Enjoy our Nativity scene and beautiful, decorated church ready for Christmas
- > Bring the family, friends and neighbours
- > Catch up with old friends and new (well-behaved dogs welcome)

Proceeds to maintenance of the church plus a donation to this month's nominated charity:
HYPHE DEMENTIA AWARENESS FORUM



STUDYING HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN LYMPNE – (SHAL)

The Royal Military Canal - 'the story of Mr Pitt's Ditch' by Michael Steed MA (Cantab)

This evening's superb, fast-paced talk by Michael Steed, took us on a journey along the history of our canal, supported with illustrations. The threat from Napoleon's *Grande Armée* of 600,000 men, which from **1804 to 1808**, controlled most of Europe was growing. Occasional gunfire from Boulogne could be heard on the Kent coast and an invasion from France felt increasingly likely, spurring the Government to urgently consider defence options. One proposal was to flood Romney Marsh; another was a canal supplied by water plumbed by the Rivers Rother and Brede. The latter option was adopted; and the canal, known as Mr Pitt's Ditch, formed the third line of defence after the Royal Navy and Martello Towers (often known as Mr Pitt's Pots).

Key figures involved in decision making and construction were:

Lt-Col. John Brown - Assistant Quartermaster General and Commandant of the Royal Staff Corps of Field Engineers who conceived the idea and produced an initial survey and report. He oversaw the project.

The Duke of York - Commander-in-Chief of British Forces and **Prime Minister William Pitt the Younger** were both staunch supporters and instrumental in getting it approved. The Prime Minister also served as Colonel Commandant of the Cinque Port Volunteers.

General William Twiss - A British Army Royal Engineer responsible for overseeing construction.

Sir Home Popham - who raised the Sea Fencibles in **1793** as a coastal defence force. These men were to be deployed inshore, armed with flintlock 'Brown Bess' muskets which, unfortunately, were not accurate unless at close range. He also created the signal code for the Royal Navy, used for decades afterwards.

Sir John Moore - along with **Captain William Ford** - initiated the idea of the Martello Towers, the design of which was inspired by a Corsican round fortress at Mortella Point. 74 defensive towers were built between Folkestone and Seaford along the 28 mile stretch of canal from Seabrook to Cliff End near Hastings; 26 still remain. The towers were manned by the Cinque Port Volunteers formed in **1803**, a three-battalion strong force of 3000 men. Sir John Moore also established a training camp at Shorncliffe and recruited around 350,000 volunteers to a militia force.

In **1804** - Navvies started digging by hand at Seabrook working westwards. Up to 1500 men in total were working at its peak, including soldiers building ramparts, and up to 700 navvies digging. Every 600 yards a kink was created allowing guns with this range to fire along each length (enfilade) giving a tactical advantage.

In **1805**, the victory at Trafalgar was decisive for the British but canal construction continued. Sluices were built to control water levels and a lock at Iden, East Sussex. During the Great Storm of **November 1808** a surge of seawater threatened to flood the marsh. A Red-coat soldier galloped to Iden Lock, and arrived just in time to order the lock gates to be opened and prevent a disaster. Two redoubts were

constructed, at Dymchurch to protect the sluices and at Shorncliffe to provide covering artillery fire from the eastern end of the canal. Some doubted the canal would be an adequate defence, but it was never tested as the Royal Navy was the main deterrent to invasion, maintaining a blockade on French ports and controlling the Channel. But Hitler's Operation Sea Lion plan to invade Britain showed he considered it a key defensive structure to control.

Today the canal provides leisure opportunities and is managed by the Environment Agency.

Recommended: 'The Royal Military Canal' a book by P.A.L. Vine. Visit to Dymchurch Martello Tower, fine example with stores, garrison accommodation and a large gun on the roof.

Next meeting – 7.30 pm on 20th January 2026 at the Harry Margary Hall, Lympne - 'Memories of Lympne and Brockhill Schools'. If you would like to become a member of SHAL please email Rosemary Stutchbury at rosemary@stutchbury.myzen.co.uk.



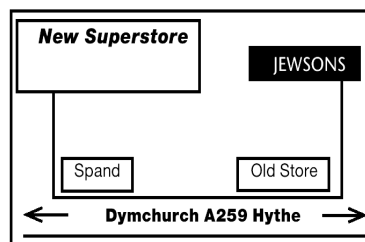
KENT GARDENER December is not most inviting time to be in the garden as it usually cold and gloomy. A walk round the garden can be rewarding to find a little violet or primrose flower peering up from under a pile of fallen leaves or it can be used as an opportunity to check that a container plant is not becoming too wet or dry. We do not seem to get many heavy frosts before Christmas but listen to the local weather forecasts and be ready with the fleece if one is forecast. Winter prunings from evergreen foliage or rose hips (leave some for the birds) can be used for wreaths or indoor decorations. Be aware that pets are curious and may try to sample berries, edible or not. If you want to increase your shrubs hardwood cuttings can be taken now. Take a current year's stem and cut each section 15-30cms long, making a slanting cut above a leaf bud at the top and a straight cut beneath a bud at the base. Remove any leaves and plunge the cutting into sheltered ground or pot so two thirds are buried, water and wait until new leaves appear. Indoors, keep house plants on a saucer with damp pebbles so leaves do not develop crispy edges. Treat Christmas trees like cut flowers if they have no roots and potted plants if they do. They will be very thirsty in a centrally heated atmosphere. Keep away from a heat source or they may drop their needles early. Finally, please keep bird food and water topped up over winter to keep them healthy. Have a good Christmas and happy gardening in 2026

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LYMPNEPARISH COUNCIL

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding local issues, or any other matters you wish to raise, you can contact Lympne Parish Councillors

Current Members

Chair Mike Boor

Vice Chair Anne Beales

Claire Yates

Michael Potter

Judith East

Michael McAuley

James Sinclair

Correspondence should be sent to the Parish Clerk

Jeff Lawrence

29 Honeywood Close Lympne

Tel: 01303 883 228

e-mail: clerk@



Loneliness at Christmas

As the festive season approaches, Age UK is reminding us that

Christmas can be a difficult and lonely time for many older people. While most of us are surrounded by family, friends and celebrations, thousands will spend the holiday alone, with little or no social contact.

Age UK's Christmas campaign encourages communities to look out for older neighbours, offer a friendly chat, or extend a small act of kindness. Even a brief conversation or a quick visit can make a real difference.

If you know someone who may be on their own this year, please take a moment to reach out. A little warmth and connection can help ensure no one in our village feels forgotten this Christmas.

www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/together-were-not-alone/

REFUSE COLLECTION DATES DECEMBER 2025

Recycling (Purple Lid/Black Box) and Food Waste will be collected on: Tuesday 9th and 23rd

Non-Recyclables (Green Lid) and Food Waste will be collected on: Tuesday 2nd, 16th and 30th

Garden Waste Collections 12nd, 16th and 30th

Please do not put the lid on the Black Box—use the food waste container or a heavy object.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS CONTACT DETAILS

KCC Councillor Peter Osborne

Peter.Osborne@kent.gov.uk

District Councillors

John Wing

john.wing@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Jeremy Speakman

jeremy.speakman@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The County Members



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THURSDAY (BAR OPEN) 12-10pm (FOOD SERVED) 12-9pm
FRIDAY (BAR OPEN) 12-11pm (FOOD SERVED) 12-10pm
SATURDAY (BAR OPEN) 12-10pm (FOOD SERVED) 12-9pm
SUNDAY (BAR OPEN) 12-8pm (FOOD SERVED) 12-7pm



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to - despite knowing that
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