



## Annual Parish Meeting — A Community in Good Heart

The Annual Parish Meeting was held recently (8th April) to a well-attended gathering of parishioners, with a full agenda and plenty to celebrate and look forward to.

The evening opened with updates on the Parish Council's busy programme of work. Highlights included the long-awaited **new playground**, now complete after years of fundraising, and exciting plans for a **wellbeing garden** on the former playground site — featuring sensory plants, native trees, raised beds for children, and quiet seating areas where people can simply enjoy the surroundings. The **Trim Trail** between Berwick Lane and the Ridgeway is also about to get underway, with the path being made more accessible for pushchairs and wheelchair users. Local children will be invited to create nature information signs about wildlife, butterflies and birds for the route — a lovely way to get young people involved and see their work out in the community.

The **Youth Club, Lunch Club, Crafting Group, and Digital Champion scheme** — which has even extended to helping residents reprogram their central heating at home! — all received warm mentions as vital pillars of village wellbeing. The Youth Club alone sees up to 45 young people through its doors, with several former members now returning to volunteer.

District Council Leader **Jim Martin** gave an informative update on the long-running Otterpool Park development, reporting genuine momentum with Homes England now actively purchasing land and infrastructure planning well advanced.

The **proposed solar farm at Court-at-Street** has been a deeply contentious local issue, but the mood at the meeting was cautiously optimistic. The government's new mandate requiring solar panels on all new homes from 2028, combined with confirmation that Otterpool's development will begin nearer the station rather than on valued agricultural land, appears to significantly reduce the case for a large ground-mounted array. With energy company Synergy's scheme tied solely to supplying Otterpool, parishioners who have campaigned on this issue will find the current picture reassuring.

The undoubted highlight of the evening was the presentation of **Kent Association of Local Councils Community Awards**. **Rosemary Stutchbury** was recognised for an extraordinary 40-plus years of dedication to Guides, Brownies, and Rainbows since 1983 — a contribution that has touched countless young lives across the parish. **Charles Donaldson** was warmly applauded for his many years of quietly and steadfastly coordinating the Community Speed Watch scheme.

Both recipients were modest in acceptance, but the room was in no doubt about the scale of what they have given. A lovely evening that reminded us all just how much is quietly done by the wonderful people around us. Thank you to everyone who gives their time so generously.

### ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH, LYMPNE COFFEE MORNING



**SATURDAY 16 MAY 2026  
10.30am - 12.30pm**

- > Join us for coffee, cake & savoury bakes
- > Take a break from that walk (Well-behaved dogs welcome)
- > Catch up with old friends and new

*Proceeds to maintenance of the church plus a donation to this month's nominated charity:*

#### TEARFUND

*(Tackling poverty and injustice through sustainable development in the world's poorest countries)*

What's on in

May



at Lymgne Castle



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May Castle Gardens Open Day 10:00am-4:00pm**

In association with the National Garden Scheme, take a wander through our beautiful Ornamental, Orchard and Castle gardens.

Adults £10 Children Free Dogs Welcome

Tickets available from [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk) or on the day at the castle



**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May Busy Bee Adventure 11:00am-12:00pm**

From tiny wings to colourful petals, we're learning how the smallest creatures make the biggest difference to our planet in this wonderfully fun workshop.

Perfect for children aged 5-11

£15 per child



**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May Music Bingo Games start at 6:30pm**

Get your dabbers out and join us for the most fun on a Friday night!

£5 for 4 games, supporting Lymgne Village Primary School

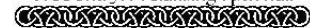
Games start at 6:30pm



**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May Castle Book Club 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Bring your latest read, grab a drink and find yourself a cosy spot in front of one of our roaring open fires or watch the sunset on the terrace.

Free entry. Socialising optional.



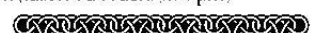
#### Opening Hours

**The Good Knight and Castle**

Monday-Sunday 12:00pm-10:00pm (last food orders 9:00pm)

**The Naughty Dog**

Monday-Sunday 8:00am-6:00pm (last food orders 5:00pm)



For more information or to book, please contact us on

01303 533533 or email [enquiries@lympnecastle.com](mailto:enquiries@lympnecastle.com)



# LYMPNE VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB

IN THE HARRY MARGARY HALL

Films will be shown every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month (not December).

MAKE A DATE IN YOUR DIARY FOR THIS POPULAR VILLAGE EVENT. ALL PROFITS GO TO THE VILLAGE HALL FUND.



7.15 for a 7.30 start



FREE MEMBERSHIP

Entrance fee of £5.00 includes refreshments and lucky draw ticket.

Showing on 26<sup>th</sup> May:

## MILITARY WIVES

*Kristin Scott Thomas and Sharon Horgan in a film that will have you "on your feet, cheering and crying" as an amateur choir comes together to bring joy and hope to the world of the army wives.*

Showing on 23<sup>rd</sup> June: **PHILOMENA** – Judi Dench puts in a terrific performance as a woman searching for the son she gave up for adoption.



We reserve the right to show a substitute film should the need arise or to refuse admission. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult (ID will be requested).



LYMPNE VILLAGE HALL

We've got lots going on! On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June we're running a boot fair, just for the afternoon (from 1pm) and just to see how it goes. If you'd like more information, please get in touch, email: [events@lympnevillagehall.co.uk](mailto:events@lympnevillagehall.co.uk)

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July is the date of our Summer Fair and Fun Day. We will have food, a bar, entertainment for adults and children, plus the ever popular Dog Show. We also have loads of interesting stalls for you to browse. On that note, if you would like to have a stall, please let us know, as we still have room for more. Also, if you'd like to volunteer to run one of the village hall stalls, let us know. Same email as above. See you there, if not before!

Chair- Lympne Village Hall

## LYMPNE LUNCH CLUB



Our April meeting fell in Easter week this time. When we arrived we were greeted with tables decorated for the occasion with vases of lovely spring flowers and handmade baskets with chocolate eggs. We had a delicious lunch of roast chicken, roast potatoes and vegetables followed by sticky toffee pudding, with seconds if we could manage them! Afterwards we made an Easter pocket with bunny ears and face which we filled with chocolate eggs and paper flowers, with a ribbon to hang it up. This was followed by picture bingo with a seasonal theme. We finished with a raffle, the main prize being a large chocolate egg. If you feel you would like to join our friendly group which meets over a hot meal costing £8.50, with activities, we meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month, in the Harry Margary Hall.

Please contact Margaret on 01303 269557 a couple of days beforehand to book your meal.

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## St Stephen's Church Services in May

Sunday May 3rd	11am Holy Communion 12:30 APCM
Sunday May 10th	11am Family Service
Sunday May 17th	11am Morning Prayer
Sunday May 24th	11am Holy Communion
Sunday May 31st	11am Benefice Communion at Lypne

Next evening of **Hymn Singing for All** is in Lypne Church on Friday 1st May at 7pm.

**Songs of Praise in May:** postponed to the Autumn.

**Evening Praise:** Led by a band and featuring a range of songs, particularly those suited to band-led worship. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June at 6pm.



**Sunday Club** (ages 3-10)  
Meet 10-11am Lads' club  
Contact Christine Clover:

Call 0300 030 1662 or text 07379 877846  
[christineclover@lympneandsaltwoodchurches.uk](mailto:christineclover@lympneandsaltwoodchurches.uk)



Come and join us at Lypne & Saltwood Toddlers  
10 - 11:30am  
Thursday mornings in the Harry Margary Hall,  
Aldington Road, Lypne

Save the date  
Lots of volunteers needed

**19th-20th  
September 2026**



**BIBLE READING  
MARATHON**

St Stephen's Church, Lypne

Next **Craft Day** at Lypne Church is on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

More details next month.

### Churchyard Eco Update

This Spring the wide range of bulbs in the churchyard have provided continuous interest from December through to April. Many of the flowering trees and bushes are now in flower and the perennials and wildflowers growing.

We are allowing more of the grass to the north of the churchyard to grow long to encourage a greater variety and number of wildflowers, and we have mown some paths through it. Take care as these are currently very rough and uneven.

The deadhedges have proved very effective as a barrier, a way of getting rid of branches and a wind shelter.

A pair of kestrels have tried nesting in the tower, but been chased away by the jackdaws.

A group of volunteers work in the churchyard most Saturdays when dry - extra help is always welcome.

on the former car carrying airline resident at Lympe from 1948 to 1954. Paul's talk entitled **The Silver City Story** will look at the airline operating from Lympe and Lydd airports. On **July 7<sup>th</sup>** we welcome Dean Appleton who will be giving us a presentation on **Winston Churchill at Lympe**.

**Our meetings start at 7.30pm at Lympe Church. Doors open 6.30pm. Admission £3. Refreshments available.**

*This month, we look at the first delivery of newspapers by air in 1919.*

## **The First Delivery of Newspapers by Aircraft** by John Simpson



Within the photograph albums of Gabriel Evans, a WW1 Rigger serving at Lympe, were an interesting sequence of photographs showing a Sopwith Gnu marked K101 delivering *Evening News* newspapers to an unknown location. This has now been identified as being Lympe. The event took place on the 1<sup>st</sup> May 1919, the day civilian flying restrictions were lifted. The pilot was Captain A. D. Allen and he was accompanied by *Evening News* staff on the thirty one minute flight from Hounslow. Upon landing at Lympe the landing fees were paid by the

RAF duty officer, Captain Charlton. It is assumed the newspapers were for the Hythe and Folkestone area.

The newspaper front page was promoting the inauguration of a special newspaper delivery service by a Fairey seaplane from the Thames at Blackfriars to Westgate on Sea three days later.

It is not thought Gabriel Evans had any connection with this event at Lympe beyond possibly witnessing it. The *Evening News* article reported:

### **'Evening News' Delivered by Aircraft** **Record Flight with Papers for South East Coast** Today's Plans

*For the first time, the Evening News was delivered by air to various places on the Kent coast last evening. The machine used was a Sopwith Gnu, a three seater fitted up with a luxurious limousine body.*

*The special edition was delivered to Hounslow by car, arriving at 4.35pm. By 4.40pm the aeroplane was loaded up and Captain A. D. Allen, the pilot with a representative of the Evening News as passenger, was in the air on the way to Lympe.*

*The weather was somewhat rough, but the visibility was good which enabled the trip to be done in the remarkable time of 31 minutes which is a record for a flight from Hounslow to Lympe.*

*The machine is fitted with a 200 horse power Bentley rotary engine, and has been specially constructed for passenger work. The pilot is seated in front, quite apart from the passengers, who sit side by side in the limousine. The seats are beautifully upholstered, and through the glass panels a wonderful view of the surrounding country can be seen.*

### **Travel de Luxe**

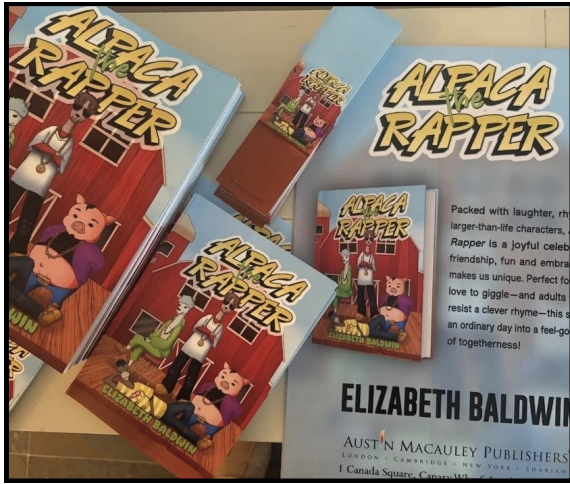
*Special flying kit is unnecessary, and yesterday afternoon he wore an ordinary soft hat and waterproof, whilst he spent the time smoking and reading. By a neat arrangement excellent ventilation is assured, and the cabin is fitted with electric lights. Telephones are also fitted, so that constant communication can be kept up with the pilot, who also keeps passengers informed of any special object of interest they are passing. Once in the air, the machine makes straight for the coast passing over Richmond, Wimbledon, Croydon and across the Surrey hills to Ashford and Lympe. It was the first civilian aeroplane to land at the south east coast aerial custom house. On arriving the greatest interest was evinced in the machine, and Captain Carlton, RAF, who is in charge of the flying there, took all the necessary particulars including the landing fee. The papers were taken by special car to the surrounding district, and were on sale in the streets nearly two hours before the usual time.*

Note: The RAF rank of Captain does not exist. This was probably a throwback to the RFC which by 1919 had been consigned to history. The corresponding rank in the RAF is Flight Lieutenant from April 1st 1918

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

# LOCAL AUTHOR

## Alpaca the Rapper – A New Children’s Book Launch



Local resident Elizabeth Baldwin who has lived in the village for nearly 15 years and is a children’s writer launched her debut picture book last month.

“Alpaca the Rapper” is filled with rhyme, rhythm and imagination. The story follows a lively alpaca whose love of words, rhythm and rhyme turns everyday moments into something a little bit magical for young readers.

The book launched on the 24th April and is available to buy from many outlets online including Amazon . It is hoped the story will bring a little laughter and creativity to families in the village and beyond.



May is an exciting time in the garden as spring turns to summer and there is blossom on the trees, in the borders and the air has a special freshness. The garden surprises everyday with new flowerings. Time to prick out or plant out the seedlings and cuttings nurtured over the last few months and once the soil has warmed up, the more tender specimens, flowers or vegetables, can go out too after hardening off, that is putting them outside during the day and taking them in for a few nights to acclimatise them. After the early flowering shrubs have gone over it is a good time to prune, cutting out two or three older stems at the base and the rest by about a third to a strong shoot or bud.

Garden centres will have a good selection of plants for sale. Look for the larger plants as they may divide into two or three smaller plants making sure each piece will have good roots and 2 or 3 growing points. Please leave bulb foliage to die down naturally for a better display next year, hide the yellowing leaves behind a fresher plant if possible. Maximise the vegetable plot by sowing a catch crop eg lettuce or radish between slower growing vegetables, as they will be ready to harvest first. Water carefully in dry spells, focus on new plants and water at the base. When planting out water into the hole, allow the water to drain, plant, back fill and water again to settle the roots. Establishes shrubs and the lawn should not need extra water. Happy gardening.

## LYMPNE FELLOWSHIP



Happily the weather was on our side for our visit to Harringe Plants in April, where we were greeted by Dan for our ‘Backstage Tour’ of the garden centre. Dan explained some of his background and training and that Harringe Plants is a family run business. He took us on a tour of the greenhouses, each one with its own specific function. Thousands of plants are grown from plugs, some of which varieties have to be imported and then raised under glass. We watched as some of these were potted on, using a machine and conveyor to pour soil into the next stage pots, when two young men planted the plugs manually before they were transported on conveyer to the next greenhouse. Here they were stood on white polythene which reflected the light to help develop stronger plants.

Dan explained that black pots were used, as grey ones deteriorated quickly and could not be re-used. Global warming means that less heat is utilised nowadays, and drippers and sprinklers provide the vital water as needed. Hanging baskets and pots were suspended from the frames, containing up to about 15 plug plants per pot. An interesting utilisation of guttering fitted high along the inside of the frame allowed large numbers of strawberry plants to be grown without the risk of the trailing stems touching the ground, efficiently using the space within the greenhouse. A highly interesting visit, which culminated in a welcome cup of coffee/tea and cake from their new refreshments shed situated by the pond, followed by time to wander round and the chance to purchase plants, ornaments and everything else our gardeners needed. Our grateful thanks go to Dan for his patience. If you have never been to Harringe Plants at Potten Farm, it is seriously worth a visit!

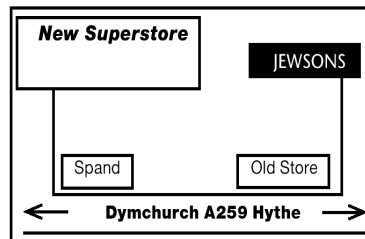


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## LYMPNEPARISH COUNCIL

### 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**

**Peter Murphy**

**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@lympneparishcouncil.gov.uk**

**WEBSITE**

**www.lympneparishcouncil.gov.uk**

And find us on Facebook

### Could You Be One Of Our Next Parish Councillors?

As your Parish Council enters the final year of its current term of office, with local parish council elections due to take place in 2027, now is the perfect time to start thinking about whether you could play a role in shaping the future of our community.

Being a Parish Councillor is one of the most rewarding forms of public service you can take on. It's your chance to have a real say in local issues that matter — from planning and green spaces to community events and local amenities. Councillors come from all walks of life; no special qualifications are needed, just a genuine interest in where you live and a willingness to get involved. If you're curious, why not come along to one of our Parish Council meetings to see what it's all about? Meetings are open to the public and dates are advertised on our website and local notice boards. You're also very welcome to have an informal chat with any of our current councillors, or contact the Parish Clerk directly to arrange an appointment and find out more.

Your community needs people like you. Could 2027 be your year?

### REFUSE COLLECTION DATES

MAY 2026

**Recycling (Purple Lid/Black Box) and Food Waste will be collected on: Tuesday 5th and 19th**

**Non-Recyclables (Green Lid) and Food Waste will be collected on: Tuesday 14th and 28th.**

**Garden Waste Collections 5rd and 19th**

### 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**



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CALL SEAN on  
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1 free net of kindling with the  
first delivery of logs for the  
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\*(limited to 1 per household,  
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### Counselling, Supervision and Mindfulness

Supporting you with anxiety,  
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bereavement and loss,  
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In person or online

Hythe area

Contact Ellen: 07740857109

Email: [ejgarrard2712@gmail.com](mailto:ejgarrard2712@gmail.com)

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



## LYMPNE OVER 50s LUNCH CLUB

Join our friendly social group for  
a chat over a hot meal, dessert  
and tea or coffee with fun  
activities, bingo or quizzes.

Taking place at the Harry  
Margary Hall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of  
each month Cost £8.50. Booking  
the meal is essential at least the  
day before.

Contact Margaret  
on 01303 269557.

Transport available, if necessary,  
within Lympne Village



No wrong answers,

just the  
right start.

Search  
Healthy  
Choices Quiz



As an important part of our community the head teacher at lympne school Melenie Nash invites you to take a look at the school newsletter at the following web address

The link to weekly newsletters is <https://www.lympne.kent.sch.uk/News/Newsletters-31082018152119/>

