LYMPNE NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

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

IN THIS MONTHS ISSUE YOUTH CLUB PROGRESS, VILLAGE HALL AGM, BIRTHDAY GREETINGS AND MUCH MORE



90 Years Young This Month

In recognition of her services to the Parish, Barbara Johnson (Pictured with Parish Councillor Michael McAuley)has been made a Freewoman of the Parish, following a vote at a specially convened meeting of the Parish Council in August. The honour acknowledges decades of volunteering that have touched almost every part of village life.

In 1964/5 Barbara moved to Lympne and founded the Lympne 'Young Wives Club', a group offering friendship, support and wellbeing to housewives, working wives and young mothers. A few posters pinned to telegraph poles brought nearly a dozen prams to her front lawn within a week. The club led on to a Babysitting Swap group, in which coloured cardboard tokens were exchanged for hours of child care.

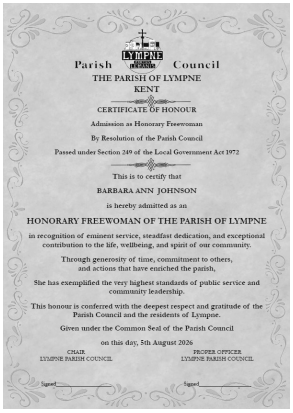
From the 1960s she was Lympne Church's Flower Arranger, filling the church, and the Great Hall of the Castle, with generous arrangements. She continued to create poppy wreaths and arrangements for the war memorial, as well as the church Advent wreath, until 2024. In the 1970s she helped run the Sunday School, making flannelette-backed biblical characters for its storyboard, and from the 1990s she was part of a team planning church social events and concerts. She was also an active member of Lympne Women's Institute from the late 1960s, taking on office-bearer roles and helping to coordinate events. Her plasticine model of Stonehenge won praise at a regional WI event.

When the 'new' village hall was built in the early 1980s, she and her husband Colin co-founded the Lympne Village Players. She successfully applied for a Village activity grant to fund costumes, scenery, lighting and stage curtains for their first productions. In the early 1980s she also started Lympne Playgroup in the village hall, leading a team of volunteers, and in the 1980s she opened her own home to the 1st Lympne Brownies when no other venue was available.

For many years Barbara played a key role on the Village Hall committee, handling publicity, bookings, event planning, fetes and Christmas markets. She was active at the old village hall before the new one was built, and was the first to propose, and draw up, the advertising billboard at the junction of Stone Street and Aldington Road.

Alongside her family commitments, [worked part time as a florist, in a Folkestone shop and mainly freelance for weddings and with the Castle. She worked in ticketing for Dan Air at Lympne Airport in the 1970s, and was later house florist and a gate reception ticketer at Port Lympne. She was Publicity Officer for FHODS for many years.

Villages like Lympne could not hold together their community spirit without people like her. The Parish Council is proud to recognise Barbara's service to the village by conferring on her the title of Freewoman of the Parish and to wish her a very happy birthday.



Parish Council
THE PARISH OF LYMPNE
KENT

CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR

Admission as Honorary Freewoman

By Resolution of the Parish Council

Passed under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972

This is to certify that

BARBARA ANN JOHNSON

is hereby admitted as an

HONORARY FREEWOMAN OF THE PARISH OF LYMPNE

in recognition of eminent service, steadfast dedication, and exceptional contribution to the life, wellbeing, and spirit of our community.

Through generosity of time, commitment to others, and actions that have enriched the parish,

She has exemplified the very highest standards of public service and community leadership.

This honour is conferred with the deepest respect and gratitude of the Parish Council and the residents of Lympne.

Given under the Common Seal of the Parish Council

on this day, 5th August 2026

CHAIR LYMPNE PARISH COUNCIL

PROPER OFFICER LYMPNE PARISH COUNCIL

Signed

Signed



Events during the

Festive Season

at Lympne Castle

Friday 27th & Monday 30th November from 3pm-8pm
Saturday 28th& Sunday 29th November from 11am-5pm
Meet Father Christmas and his Elves
Children age 1-12years £18pp Under 1 £10.50

Thursday 3rd December-Festive Sequins and Sparkles Music Bingo
£5 for 4 games, supporting Lympne Village Primary School
Games start at 6:30pm

Thursday 10th December
Murder mystery night- £75 per head
Murder Under The Mistletoe
Includes Arrival drink, 3 course meal, and entertainment.

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

Festive Lunches - £47.50 per head
Includes 3 course festive meal & welcome drink
3rd, 4th, 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 22nd and 23rd December
Sittings at 12:30pm and 3:30pm
Please call for availability.

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

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Village Hall AGM. The date and time this year will be Tuesday 10th November at 8pm. This is a chance for you to meet the committee and help shape the future of the village halls. Various reports will be presented for you to discuss, and if you want to join the committee this is your chance. Any questions: chair@lympnevillagehall.co.uk

TRIM TRAIL AND WELLBEING GARDEN TAKING SHAPE

Work is nearing completion at the trim trail where access to the trail has been improved to prevent boggy conditions. Yu may have noticed lots of activity at the old playpark which is being converted into communal gardens with a nature pond, fragrant plants and community fruit trees. There will also be planting areas and places to relax while enjoying the environment.



LYMPNE VILLAGE HALL FILM CLUB

IN THE HARRY MARGARY HALL

Films will be shown every ***4th 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 24th November:

MOULIN ROUGE

starring Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor – a colourful, exotic, musical love story – exuberant entertainment!

PLEASE NOTE – THERE IS NO FILM CLUB IN DECEMBER- JOIN US IN 2027!

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 FELLOWSHIP

At our October AGM our Chair, Jill Page, stepped down after a number of years in the role. A massive thank you to her for all her hard work and we are grateful that she intends to continue as a committee member. Sue Gibson also stepped down from the committee after, again, a number of years and a big thank you to her also, as well as to the rest of the committee who have worked hard through the year to provide a varied and very enjoyable programme of events. We were also delighted to welcome Jenny Addis to the role of committee member. Unfortunately there were no nominations for a new Chair so the committee will now continue to share these duties. Following the short AGM there was plenty of time to socialise and catch up with each other.

Our next meeting on Thursday 12 November will be our Seasonal Craft Making once again led by Rosemarie Hoad.

Lympne 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 Sunday Services in November

Nov 1st	**11am Holy Communion**
Nov 8th	**10:50am** Act of Remembrance **by War Memorial** **11am Parade Service for all**
Nov 15th	**11am Morning Worship**
Nov 22nd	**11am Holy Communion**
Nov 29th	**No Service at Lympne** **10am at Saltwood**

40,000 Bees Rehomed from the church



Last month a large colony of bees was removed from the church roof and they now have a new home in an apple orchard in Kent. Between 38,000 and 40,000 bees were relocated.

This was a difficult job requiring scaffolding to access and Arms Apiaries had to work in a very small space to remove large quantities of honeycomb and bees.

Photos are on display in church showing some of the honeycomb in situ and the honeycomb showing honey and bees emerging from their cells.

Look Ahead to Christmas

This year on Christmas Eve at 4pm there will be a traditional Crib Service suitable for everyone. A traditional start to Christmas - listening to the Christmas Story and singing favourite carols.

The Blue Christmas Service for those who find Christmas a painful time will be earlier in December on 6th December at 3pm.

Carols at the Castle will be at 6pm on Saturday 19th December.

For other dates see next month's magazine or look on the church website diary at https://lympneandsaltwoodchurches.org.uk/

Parade Service for Remembrance Sunday

This year Guides and Rainbows will bring their flags to the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial outside the church.

This starts at 10:50am to allow for 2 minutes silence at 11am. As usual, anyone is invited to lay wreaths or crosses.

This will be followed by a parade service in church - all are welcome to join us for hymns, prayers and readings.



Wild Flowers in the Churchyard

This year the eco team in the church have been auditing what wild flowers are present in the churchyard and experimenting with allowing more wild flowers to flourish. The long grave sown with wild flowers has looked amazing from July through to October and we are planting more for next year.

LYMPNE AIRFIELD HISTORY SOCIETY

On **November** 3rd we welcome **Rachel Cornish,** well known in the village as one of our church wardens, who will be looking at the natural world and its comparisons in flight with man made aircraft. Entitled **Wings of Nature, Wings of Flight,** we look forward to her presentation.

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



This time we look at a memories of the flying with the car carrying airline Silver City from Lympne in the late 1940s and 1950s

Remembering Silver City at Lympne

by John Simpson

Many of the photographs of *Silver City* we see were taken at Lydd Ferryfield, but Lympne in its day was just as important. I have tried to record as much as I can about the period 1948 to 1954, but as has proved to be the case most such serving staff are no longer with us. There are however people who do remember stories from those days and I have a selection here to look back on.

Bill Righter from Hythe remembers a larger than life character called Richard Kennedy who lived on the edge of the Marsh. In his capacity as a fork lift truck driver at Lympne he managed to put the prongs of his fork lift truck through the side of a Bristol Freighter. He had to seek another job elsewhere as a result. Bill also remembers visiting an uncle who lived at nearby Greatstone on Sea where the *Silver City* Bristol Freighters were continually flying overhead to and from Lympne or France.

David Hood used to live in Dover near the railway station, His Dad was a signalman at Folkestone Junction and remembers on his Dad's days off going to Lympne by bus to watch aeroplanes coming and going. He particularly remembers seeing and hearing the deep roar of the Bristol Freighter Bristol Hercules engines as they taxied and raced down the grass runway to take off for Le Touquet, Calais and Ostend. He can remember on clear days seeing from the top of the incline at Folkestone Junction, the spire on Calais town hall near to where *Silver City* Freighters were landing.

John Wood remembered making the last flight from Lympne to Calais in October 1954 (as opposed to Le Touquet which had switched to Lydd in July) where the Bristol Freighter made a low pass over the runway before landing, and then returning to Lympne. John lived very close to the airfield at the time in the *Corner House* in Aldington Road and was well used to the Bristol Freighters flying over his home.

David Goldsmith remembers a Bristol Freighter first appeared at Lympne in 1947 of *Messrs. Air Contractors*, the year before they were regularly seen in *Silver City* markings. He was also at Lympne the day the last Bristol Freighter took off for Calais.

Gerald Jeans of Lympne who's father Frank worked as a public relations officer for *Silver City* at Lydd, was himself at Lympne for one season towards the end of the airline's tenure and can remember driving prestigious makes of cars like Rolls Royce and Cadillac up the ramp and on to Bristol Freighters. He remembers that some of them were so high geared that they were difficult to load and sometimes needed a more experienced hand to take over the loading from him. Some of these vehicles belonged to famous people. Gerald also remembers the passenger compartments were very basic and in some cases quite tatty.

Trevor Clapp, we learn from David Collyer's *Lympne Airport in old Photographs* book, remembered making making his last flight from Lympne as aircrew in a Bristol Freighter G-AIFV in September 1954. The flight took off from Lympne at 9.00am, and returned at 11.00am witnessed by his wife to be Valerie Maske

Tony Shorter lived in Belcaire Close at the time and remembers one of the first *Silver City* flights into Lympne was from somewhere else in England. He remembers the front doors of the Bristol Freighter

opening and being surprised to see race horses being unloaded. They would no doubt have been going to the racecourse at Westenhanger. He also remembers when the three car Superfreighter was introduced they used to struggle into the air just missing trees by the *County Members* pub. In his

view this was another factor in the transfer to Lydd Ferryfield in 1954.

Douglas Whybrow, recalls in his 1995 book *Air Ferry* a chap came for a job interview at Lympne Airport. He arrived by bicycle and propped it up where he considered it would be safe. In those days *Silver City* transported a lot of bikes that they kept on site as they qualified as a 'vehicle'.

Passengers were not allowed to travel without a vehicle, so being lent a bike was a way around the legislation. Consequently, said bike was loaded on to the outgoing flight to Le Touquet. Interview over, the interviewee couldn't find his bike. He had to wait for its return, but was given the job for his trouble!

All accounts from *Tales of Lympne Airfield Vol. 3* available from John Simpson.

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

STUDYING HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY IN LYMPNE (SHAL)
Talk and Presentation by Shay Collyer: 'Castle Hill, Folkestone'.

Castle Hill, Folkestone overlooks junction 13, where the M20 ends. It is a scheduled monument and one of several notable hills in the area, including Sugarloaf Hill and Round Hill. The hills are formed from chalk laid down during the Late Cretaceous period, beginning around 100 million years ago, when sea levels were considerably higher than today. Castle Hill was known as Caesar's Camp, and is still sometimes called that. In 1878, Augustus Lane Fox, later known as General Pitt-Rivers, showed that it was the site of a Norman castle, with an inner ringwork and an outer bailey, not a Roman fort. His dig has been claimed as the first scientific excavation of a medieval site in Britain. The castle was probably built between the 1070s and the 1130s. It was approached by a defended causeway, which incorporated a Bronze Age bowl barrow, far older than the castle itself. Historic England notes the barrow shows no evidence of serious disturbance.

Some of Pitt-Rivers' finds are in Folkestone Museum, although the majority, including a Norman-period iron arrowhead, are in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. Finds scattered across the site included numerous medieval pottery sherds, two Norman cooking pots, iron knives, a piece of a spindle whorl, horseshoe fragments and nails. Among them were a fragment of a flute or whistle carved from a bird's bone, pieces of gilt copper, one decorated with a quatrefoil, and a carved chalk head of a man. The head is badly battered, but our speaker believes it sports a large moustache. As moustaches came in and out of fashion and were favoured by some groups but not
others, she suggested that the head might be Anglo-Saxon rather than Norman. A well was also discovered within the inner ringwork, recorded as being over 29 metres deep.

Two silver pennies of King Stephen are recorded from the hill, one found by Pitt-Rivers in 1878. Stephen reigned from 1135 to 1154. His struggle with his cousin, Empress Matilda, is known as the Anarchy. The coins may help to date the construction of the castle,
although they cannot establish it precisely.

In 1972-73, fourteen coins, mostly Roman but including an Iron Age coin, were found on nearby Sugarloaf Hill, suggesting Roman activity in the area. A small fourth-century Roman coin found on Castle Hill's Norman ramparts was probably moved there during their construction.

In 1988-9, during construction of the Channel Tunnel terminal, archaeologists from Canterbury Archaeological Trust dug a trench on the south-west side of the hill ahead of siting a waypoint, or survey point. They found scattered Neolithic Peterborough Ware, along with worked flints. Pitt-Rivers had already found Neolithic pottery on the hill in 1878. The trench also revealed a possible Neolithic ditch. Our
speaker suggested it might have formed part of a larger Neolithic monument, perhaps used for gatherings, ceremonies or other communal activities. Its precise purpose, however, remains unknown. Perhaps one day the hill will reveal more of its secrets.

Next talk: - 17th November 2026 – Andrew Richardson - Talk on the Saxon Sword.

If you would like to become a member of SHAL please email our Chair Rosemary Stutchbury at r.stutchbury1@gmail.com

KENT GARDENER

NOW we are into November we should be preparing the garden for winter, though summer seemed reluctant to leave this year. November is for tidying up and planting tulips. Other types of bulbs can be planted providing they are firm and free from mould and should flower albeit later than usual. While the ground is warm plant wallflowers or forget-me-not with them. Don't be too tidy as foliage and seed heads are useful as overwintering shelters for insects which in turn feed the birds foraging in the garden. Make the garden more colourful with winter flowering plants such as hellebores, mahonia or heathers which will also provide nectar for any bees around in the winter sunshine. Remove pot saucers and raise on pot feet to prevent containers standing in puddles should we get the predicted wet winter. Use grease bands to protect fruit trees from winter moths climbing the trunk to lay eggs. The ensuing grubs burrow into the developing fruit and spoil the crop. Indoors, houseplants growth slows. They need less water and more light, move to a bright windowsill away from a radiator. For more humidity place on a saucer of damp pebbles which orchids like. Rake up fallen leaves and clear them from ponds. Make leaf mould with a heap or in an old compost sack, if dry moisten. In a year so the resulting compost will make a good mulch for penstemon and gaura. Don't forget to put out food and water for the wildlife and if you are having a bonfire party make sure there is no hedgehog or other living creatures in the pile. Happy gardening.

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- Peter Murphy

Claire Yates

Michael Potter

Judith East

Michael McAuley

James Sinclaire

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

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

YOUTH CLUB UPDATE

The Council would like to thanks those who came forward to assist with the youth club. Unfortunately we are still trying to identify an individual who can take on the role of coordinator. This person would need to have experience in youth work, this would be a paid position although part time.

Efforts continue to try and identify someone to take on this role and the Parish Council will make a final decision at Christmas time as to the future of this much loved village activity.

IF YOU ARE INTERSTED AND HAVE THE REQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN YOUTH WORK PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK

clerk@lympneparishcouncil.gov.uk

BIN COLLECTION DATES
NOVEMBER 2026

Recycling (Purple Lid/Black Box) and Food Waste will be collected on:
Tuesday 10th and 24th

Non-Recyclables (Green Lid) and Food Waste will be collected on:
Tuesday 3rd and 17th

Garden Waste Collections 10th and 24th

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

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