



A celebration of the first five years





Cover photo: Old signpost at the corner of London Road and Lynsted Lane



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The idea of forming a Lynsted Society to foster an interest in the parish has been around for many years, if not decades. But until recently no-one had evidently taken that first step in its creation. One of the reasons, no doubt, was the fear that such an organisation would fail to ‘take off’. I well remember time spent with like-minded founder members worrying about what the minimum number of members would be before the group had to be dissolved!

Well, here we are, five years later, with a hundred or so members in the Lynsted with Kingsdown Society, many of whom take an active part in the group’s activities. The mixture of lectures, outings and projects arranged by the committee has proved successful in stimulating an interest in Lynsted and Kingsdown within a Kent context, and the Society seems to be in increasingly sound health.

It has been an enjoyable privilege and an honour to have served as Chairman during the formative years. I wish the Society the very best for what I am sure will be a long and successful future.

Bob Baxter
Chairman 2003 - 2008



The Society is born

In the mists of time, a volunteer community group developed a Parish Design Statement but as that story unfolded, a wider interest in the Parish was also growing. During the preparation of the design statement an immense amount of material was collected about our Parish, both historic and present day. Of particular importance to the foundation of our Society was the all-day Character Workshop as part of the design statement process that brought together many people from around the Parish. They photographed and discussed what they liked most about the Parish. It was quickly clear that people who live here have a real desire to celebrate our environment and history. There was a real concern at the Workshop that this material and their enthusiasm may be lost.

Rather like the Monty Python “parrot sketch”, whenever two or three people from the Character Workshop got together at Parish events, they relived their enthusiasm to “do something” to build on their early enthusiasm.

So, our story began in earnest in 2003 when a Steering Group was formed to see how far we might take that early idea. A small party gathered for cheese and wine in Forge Cottage (where else!?) to test the water for the idea of a Lynsted with



“The Society has brought together a group of people who may not otherwise have met. This can only be a good thing.”

Kingsdown Society to promote an interest in the Parish – its human and natural history, heritage, and social wellbeing. The

Steering Group took encouragement from the 20 supporters on that evening and laid plans for the formation of a Society.

In the early days, members of the Steering Group were often



seen at events around the Parish sharing ideas as they unfolded. Thanks to that support, we kept going and held our first event, appropriately marking our Parish boundary, on 7th September 2003.

Keeping the momentum going, this was swiftly followed by our first speaker event in October 2003 – Arthur Percival MBE, to talk about Doddington’s buildings and history. As you will know, Arthur Percival is a staunch supporter of all historical research in this part of Kent – based as he is in nearby Faversham.

The Society was formally launched on 26th November 2003 when we heard from many of our future Members, what it was that you wanted from your Society and, of course, what you did **not** want.



Marking the parish boundary



We have tried to present a varied menu to reflect the interests of our Members and the objects set out in our Constitution.

The ***objects of the Society*** shall be to study and promote the understanding of the Parish of Lynsted with Kingsdown. Coverage includes history, archaeology, folklore, flora, fauna and genealogy from the area. The Society will arrange meetings, lectures, social events and provide a repository and focus for material and resources relevant to the Parish.

To this end the Society will;

- a) Undertake research into aspects of the Parish's heritage and natural history;
- b) Make available to the public the results of such research;
- c) Arrange and compile the results of the research to form the Archive of the Society;
- d) Mount displays of local heritage and natural history material;
- e) Provide, when required, advice and comment on matters appertaining to the natural history and heritage of the Parish;
- f) Invite guest speakers to address members of the Society on subjects relevant to the objects;
- g) Arrange visits to places of local and general interest open to members and non-members where appropriate;
- h) Arrange social events to publicise the Society and encourage new membership.



People in the Parish

In February 2004, in celebration of the establishment of the Society, and to emphasise that this was for the whole Parish, six groups of our hardy membership walked around the Parish Boundary and planted holly saplings at our marker posts. That windswept and snowy Leap Year Day was not ideal but we felt we had achieved something. Those who braved the cold were rewarded with plates of pancakes back at Lynsted Church. Six



Stalwart Committee Members planting holly

enjoyable walks that will take you to each of those markers and holly trees can be found on the map of the Parish in the centre of this booklet. Please do enjoy them and the varied views you will find over our, and neighbouring Parishes.

Talks and events have also taken place across the Parish in the Lynsted Church Community Room, Kingsdown Church, the Belle Friday Centre, Greenstreet Methodist Church, the Community Orchard, Dadmans, Aymers and in Norton Village Hall.

One of our initial events involved a talk on recording family history by Brian and Karen Tayler who have been active



researchers from their base in Tunbridge Wells for more than 20 years. An extraordinary coincidence for David Bage was one random illustration from an early copy of The Times newspaper that immediately answered a question he had been asked about a local family twenty years earlier! So, he was able finally to answer the question!

Over the past five years this has been followed by a steady procession of researchers (who have generously shared some of their work with us), snippets from your own recollections, correspondence, and visitors. We often hear from people who are planning visits from as far afield as Australia (easily our most distant Society Members!) and Canada.



***“I believe Village Society Leaders and their members maintain the focus on their country heritage and promote this unique English Village Lifestyle .”
Steve Crowell, our Australian member, commenting on the lack of concern for heritage in Perth.***



Look under your feet

Uncovering family history is only part of the heritage of our Parish – as we heard from the Portable Antiquities Scheme. We also learned of the medieval Lynsted Ring discovered some years ago by responsible metal detectorists who enjoyed seeing the ring go to Canterbury Museum where visitors are able to enjoy it first hand.

This demonstrates how important it is to make accurate records and behave ethically. Perhaps there will be scope for more of this bringing-together of tradition and modern technology? *What do you think?*



The Lynsted Ring

“Holding a clenched fist over my open palm he dropped what felt like a tractor nut into my hand.” - from the group who found this important artefact.



Dig much deeper and you will discover deneholes (traditional mines whose practical purpose was to bring to the surface chalk to sweeten the acid clay soils). Our speaker on all things “underground” in October 2006 was Rod Le Gear, who explained as “fanciful” any association of deneholes with smugglers, religious hide-aways, or stone-age flint miners. A pity for those of us with a melodramatic turn of mind! Rod expanded his talk to explore the world of domestic wells, of which there are several examples around our Parish, and



nuclear bunkers. We saw pictures from tighter places than your Committee are prepared to visit!

Some Members were able to visit the two archaeological digs before what is now St Pauls Court was built. The first area revealed several Late Iron Age ditches which are probably the remains of field systems, associated with a small farmstead located somewhere to the north of the area. No structures or other deliberately cut features associated with the Iron Age field systems were revealed.

The second dig revealed two early to mid 17th century walls forming a right angle, which are the footings for what is most likely a garden wall or surrounding boundary wall. This wall possibly represents the remains of structures associated with the former mansion of Sir Dru Drury, a Gentleman Usher at the coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, Member of Parliament and Lieutenant of the Tower of London. Only the foundations of this wall survive to any great extent, showing that extensive robbing of material has occurred, possibly when the mansion was demolished. It is however, possible that the wall was constructed following the demolition of the mansion, some time around 1643, and is the remains of the boundary wall of the property and building which replaced it.

The full Wessex Archaeology report is reproduced on our website.



Keeping traditions alive

As well as the Society version of “Beating the Bounds” early in the life of the Society (sadly the entire Parish boundary is not able to be walked), in 2005 we learnt from the massively enthusiastic Dr Paul Cullen that many place-names around Kent are based in traditions and more ancient names. So, we learned, Lynsted is associated with the small-leaved lime. The image of the small-leaved lime tree has been adopted by the Parish Council in their branding and the Society has now adopted the delicate leaf-shape in our own rebranding, timed to coincide with this celebration of five years in existence. A commemorative small-leaved lime opposite the pond in Lynsted Court meadow was planted by the Parish Council to celebrate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee.

Our Members have shown a great appetite for learning about the natural world around us.

The living world

The Society goes batty

Ideas have a habit of leading to other ideas. So, a talk by Shirley Thompson from the Kent Bat Group in August 2004, about surveying our bats was repeated in February 2006 and led to the formation of a Bat Group with the

“Despite being afraid of bats I got involved. Now I don’t know what I was worried about.”



Lynsted Community Orchard Group. The Orchard Group invested in some listening equipment and Society members have helped to survey our bats. Using this equipment, you can



discover which bats are thriving close to your home. Surveys by the Bat Group have identified two species of the “soprano” Pipistrelle and the larger Noctule bats around the Traditional Orchard and Lyn Valley. In the centre of Lynsted village there is evidence of a Daubenton’s bat, perhaps roosting in a nearby roof. We also know that bats patrol along the field-edges near to the A2.

Wildlife gardening

Our Members have consistently shown a strong interest in all aspects of the natural world around the Parish. For example, Gardening for Wildlife is held dear to the hearts of many in the Parish and a presentation in February 2005 had one of our highest attendance figures. We were reminded by Sallie and David Shaw (Swale in Bloom) that many beneficial plants “are not weeds, they are native species” suited to the insect, bird and animal life with whom we share our Parish. They explained how we can all lend a helping hand to bees, birds, mammals and reptiles by not being so quick to uproot wild plants, leaving rough areas (call them a meadow or garden

edge), water and provide some shelter for smaller mammals in the form of wood piles. Your compost heap can offer protection to slow worms, hedgehogs, woodmice and many other creatures— so do take care when forking them over and keep an eye open for some of these delightful creatures!

RSPB Wildlife Garden recommended planting

Bramble	Firethorn
Berberis	Guelder Rose
Buddleia	Hawthorn
Cornelian cherry	Holly
Cotoneaster	Honeysuckle
Crab apple	Ivy
Daisies	Rose
Dandelions	Spindleberry
Dogwood	Thistles



Fungus foray

One October afternoon, some of us rooted around Toll Wood and Park Farm orchard to learn about fungi. During our Fungus Foray, with the help of Jo Weightman, we discovered 19 species of fungi in Park Farm orchard and 16 more in Toll Wood even during an extended drought. Many photographs have been placed on the Society Website to help you identify fungi as you explore your own gardens, fields and woodland. But here are a couple of examples to start you off on your own exploration. If you don't "know your fungi", take the precaution of washing your hands if you handle any. Many are poisonous or at least unpleasant!



Glistening Ink Cap



Chicken of the Woods on dead cherry

Liking Lichens

Others of us with magnifying glasses peered at lichens in Lynsted Churchyard. One important conclusion was that we have a few examples of species that indicate fairly clean air, but not surprisingly, we lack other species that can only be found in places like the wilds of Canada or Scotland. Lichens are opportunists and will colonise many materials that offer even the smallest crack or crevice provided rain and wind bring nutrients. Our eyes were opened by Keith Palmer to the story



told by lichens, some appear as coloured dust. With cleaner air and rain, you see more prominent fruiting bodies and in the most pure conditions, you may see “tree-like” structures or fronds. The growth rate can be as little as a couple of millimetres in a year – if you ‘clean’ a wall, rock or pathway of lichens, you may be removing many years of occupation! Can you find these two examples in the churchyard?



Psilolechia lucida



Xanthoria ectaneoides

Kentish fruit

A speaker from Brogdale National Fruit Collection showed us just what we miss when we buy French Golden

Delicious and apples without blemishes! Some were bizarre, like the scarred Patte du Loup (Wolf’s Claw), but the challenge was there – support local fruit growers, or plant your own trees if you have the space and want fresh flavours not to be found in supermarkets. We were invited to think about planting the older varieties of apple (you can select a dwarfing rootstock from expert suppliers like the Trust at Brogdale to suit even the smallest gardens or suitable containers!), or quince, or medlars. For those of you who like to try something a bit different, we learned that medlars are at their best when half rotten, or “bletted”!



Down on the farm

For three years now, we have enjoyed the privilege of being invited by Neil Anderson and Jenny Hudson to Kingsdown Farm (formerly part of Hole Street Farm) in Kingsdown to learn about environmental management, our song birds, and enjoy the downland landscape around Kingsdown. We also enjoy the great hospitality shown to us with more cakes and tea than you can shake a stick at!



Members enjoying a visit to Kingsdown Farm

Recently 30 early bird members gathered at Kingsdown Farm at 7.00am to attend a talk on the dawn chorus. We are still not sure whether it was the birdcall that attracted them or the smell of bacon butties!

These wonderful days out were supplemented by walks near Doddington, led by Kent Wildlife Trust in 2006. Perhaps a little surprising was the 2007 presentation on “Wildlife in the Thames Gateway” that showed how deliberately neglecting parts of our landscape when developing housing and industrial estates can

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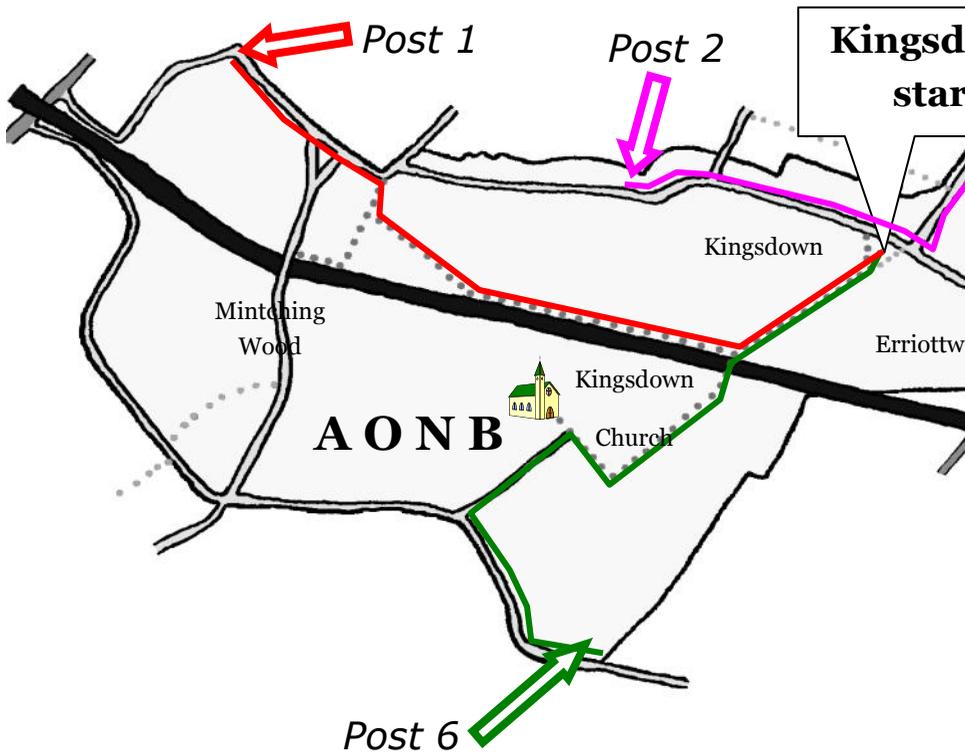


Lynsted with Kingsdown Parish Boundary Walks

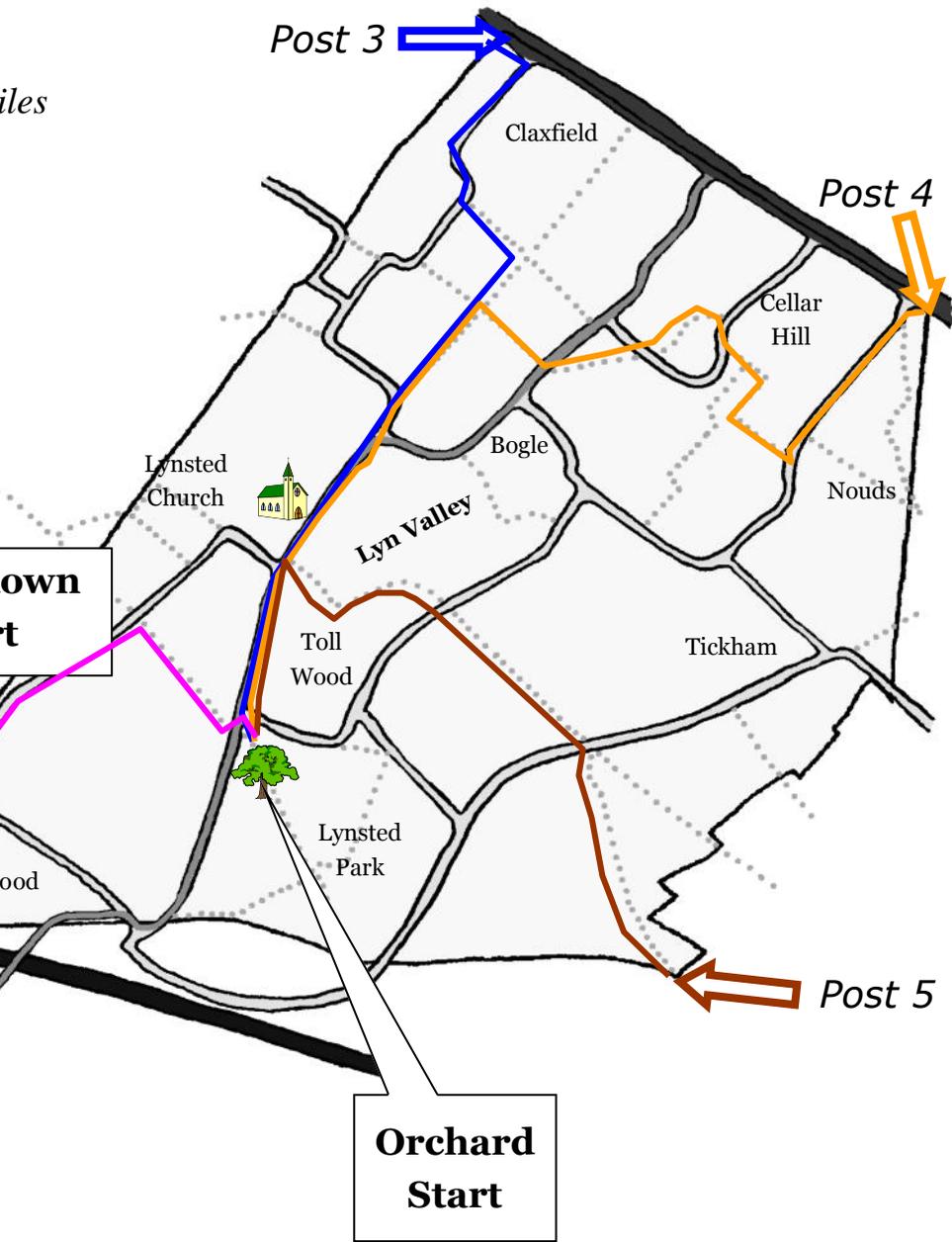
Walk details:

	<i>Route</i>		<i>Distance</i>	<i>No. of St</i>
Kingsdown		Post 1	3.2 miles,	0
Orchard		Post 2	3.2 miles,	0
Orchard		Post 3	3.1 miles,	0
Orchard		Post 4	4.0 miles,	2
Orchard		Post 5	3.1 miles,	6
Kingsdown		Post 6	3.1 miles,	0

For people with mobility problems we would recommend the walk to Post 2:



iles



own
t

ood

**Orchard
Start**



Cont from page 13

give a foothold for rare and interesting plants that thrive in impoverished ground. Richard Moyse, our speaker, explained that sensible planning can ensure that habitats don't become isolated from each other. The eastern boundary of the Thames Gateway is Conyer Creek and the eastern edge of Lynsted and Kingsdown Parish.

Places can tell many stories

.....so we visited them

In 2004, a talk was given by Catriona Blaker on the nationally important Kingsdown Church, designed by Edward Welby Pugin in the Gothic Style. This remarkable church, with its port-wine stained glass windows and lack of electricity, stands on the site of a church whose rectors can be traced back to 1313 AD. Somewhat more recently, in 1956, this church was bound to Lynsted Church (ecclesiastically speaking) and was kept in good repair by its congregation until the 1987 hurricane after which its maintenance fell to the Redundant Churches Fund. The key is available. Services are occasionally held there as are open days— you will be richly rewarded by any visit you make and the tracks and paths surrounding this church are worth exploring on foot.

Society Members built on their enthusiasm for Pugin by a visit to the then newly restored home of Pugin in Ramsgate. This trip was made possible thanks to Society member, David Powell, who restored, owns and drives a 1948 Titan double-decker bus. David has been kind enough also to take Society members and their friends on trips to Tenterden Vineyard, Rye and the Kent and East Sussex Steam Railway. These trips, usually in late summer, have become a favourite social event for many of our members.



The visit to Tenterden Vineyard included a popular shopping ‘stop over’ in Tenterden. The more recent trip to Rye also provided one group an opportunity to shop in Tenterden while others took to the Kent and East Sussex Railway Company steam train to Northiam and Bodiam where both groups joined up again before finally arriving in Rye. The Society website includes some video footage of the railway excursion, you can almost smell the coal burning as you listen to the s t e a m locomotives.



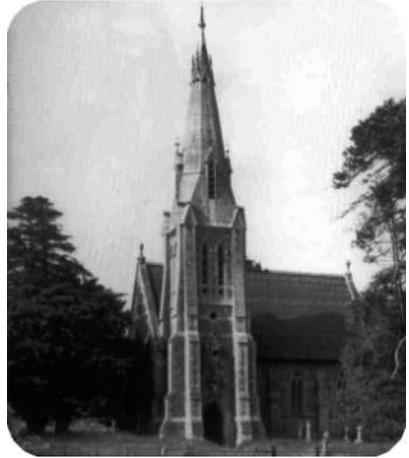
Vintage bus trip to Tenterden vineyards

The visit to Ramsgate included a visit to the rather mysterious early 19th century folly— the shell Grotto currently under the protection of English Heritage. More fanciful ideas about ancient temples are less likely than jobbing bricklayers with time on their hands! But no-one really knows the whole story.



Respecting our buildings

Closer to home the Society likes to ensure that public buildings in our Parish are used well. Churches are major landmarks at the heart of our communities nestling in the countryside. As we learned from John Vigar in January this year, their use changes and adapts over time. In 2004, a concert by the Galliard Trio was held in Kingsdown Church to raise funds for its upkeep. The Society also supported a quartet concert in Lynsted Church.



Kingsdown Church

We have enjoyed listening to the highly regarded expert Swale Conservation Officer, Peter Bell, as he explained more about what our buildings can tell us and why they matter. We learned how windows are critical indicators of age, as are bricks, chimneys and overall shapes, including jetties in timber framed buildings.

While we don't have many local bridges (except over the M2), a talk given in the Spring of 2007 was hugely popular as we learned about ancient and modern crossings nearby.

The criss-crossing of our Parish by paths and lanes gives you ample opportunity to enjoy the rich variety of our built environment and open spaces. Can you place the following views?





The Society has collected onto its website a selection of formal documents and recollections, but we are keen to build on that with your help.

So, when you next visit your attics or family albums and come across old building deeds, field planting records, letters, cuttings from old newspapers, old maps and directories – think of us. For example, the late Mayor of Swale, Peter Salmon who was an early friend of the Society, allowed us to

publish his photographs from a walk through Greenstreet in February 1973. What an important record that has proved to be, and how some things have changed! We have a few photos of the snow drifts of 1987, but we are sure there must be many other records of events,



Greenstreet in 1973

buildings no longer standing or changed in use and agricultural views that your fellow Members would find fascinating if you would allow us to copy them and publish them on the website.

We have extracted some records from historically interesting texts that cover Lynsted and surrounding villages. These include writers such as Elizabeth Selby, Charles Iggelsden (Saunters through Kent), Rev. Bill Hill's History of three



Mabel Sherwood's Cottage, Cellar Hill - a lost building



Greenstreet Hunt

villages, and Hasted. But we have also collected more modern research (Tudor Cottage, Anchor House, Stedlyn Retreat excavations, the Grange in Greenstreet alongside extensive census data on Greenstreet, and David Wood's excellent record of memorials and hatchments inside Lynsted church).

Some records are more quirky – the Kent mileage chart from 1701-22, London marriage licences of Lynsted landowners, crimes in Lynsted, suggestions of witchcraft in Kingsdown, are just some examples.

This year, we couldn't have anticipated that the research and corresponding map given to us by Ann Diamond showing field-names and crops between 1900-1930 around Greenstreet might be useful in a planned survey of older fruit trees that you can take part in, even if only by walking into your garden to look at your older fruit trees (particularly old plum trees).



On-going projects

Recording of gravestones

At the time of writing, there is also the important survey of stones and memorials in Lynsted Churchyard. This has provoked considerable interest

amongst Members who have joined that working party.



"Working away at the old gravestones has thrown up all sorts of mysteries to unravel."

This important two-year project began with a workshop in

May 2007 to record the gravestones and memorials inside Lynsted Churchyard. Due to our survey, we uncovered a long lost and massive broken ledger-stone to Edward Blaxland towards the North East corner of the church that has since been restored with a contribution from the Society.

We plan to publish a small booklet that captures our research alongside the full photographic record on our website. After 'standing down' over winter, the group reconvened in May 2008 to try to complete the task.

Next time you are in Lynsted Churchyard why not take time to see if you can put a name to each of the following details found in the churchyard? Or spot the oldest stone found so far, dated 1671.





Hedgelaying

Completed in 2008, the laying of the Lynsted Millennium Hedge was a major project for the Society that has enhanced our natural environment by providing a stock-proof hedge that will be a refuge for all kinds of natural life. The result is there for you all to enjoy through all the seasons as you walk along Cambridge Lane.

It all began with a winter break in October 2007 and a practical demonstration by expert hedge-layer, John Flower.

"I couldn't think of a better way to work off the excesses of Christmas!"



An enthusiastic group led by John Jackson, drawn from the Parish and



The hedgelaying team at work

further afield, pulled together to attend this workshop and then spend many weekends over the winter months to complete the task before nesting started in the spring. The poor weather made it touch and go at times, but we did it, just!



The finished millennium hedge

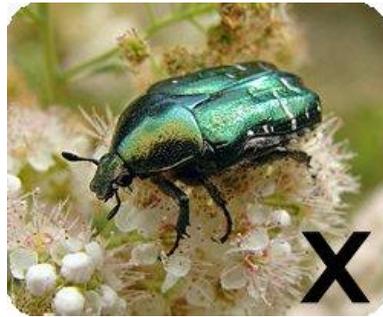


The noble chafer beetle

Not far distant, near Sittingbourne, there were recently discovered some **very** rare Noble Chafer Beetles—the first sighting in Kent for 60 years! This has led to our latest on-going project — the Hunt for the Noble Chafer Beetle! Tell-tale signs include deposits of fine droppings amongst wood dust and rotted timber. Notice that the noble chafer beetle has a “waist”, while the rose chafer does not. If you have old fruit trees in your gardens or in your field-margins, please do let the Society know.



Noble chafer beetle



Rose chafer beetle



Noble chafer beetle (*Gnorimus nobilis*) fact file

Size: Approximately 2cm

Distinguishing features: metallic bronzy-green body, wrinkly wing cases with pale flecks (easily confused with the slightly larger rose chafer beetle, *Cetonia aurata*, whose wing cases are much smoother and less speckled)

Habitat: Dead and decaying wood - in particular ancient fruit trees

Life-cycle: Female noble chafers lay up to about 35 eggs which hatch after about two weeks. The larvae are white c-shaped grubs of around 3cm long which feed on rotting wood debris for around two years before emerging as adult beetles in early summer. The adult lifespan is approximately 4-6 weeks during which time they can sometimes be spotted visiting flowers such as hogweed and angelica.

Distribution: Recorded sightings are limited to key fruit-growing areas of Britain, including Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, plus limited outlying populations sighted in Oxfordshire and the New Forest.



Society website

We will continue to record our Members' interests through the Society website, including video of blue tits and great tits in a local bird-box and more recently, Graham Sargent's video record of our bus trip with steam train journey. Across the whole period, we have collected and published many interesting snippets and larger pieces of research on our website – placed on the world-wide web so that you, your families, visitors to this part of Kent, and like-minded people around the world can learn from our efforts and share their own insights into the place we hold dear – the Parish of Lynsted with Kingsdown.

Many of you took part in a photographic day in 2004 when another group were pulling together what is now the Parish Design Statement for Lynsted with Kingsdown. We have acquired those photographs and hope, when we have time, to publish them onto our website for general interest and future generations.

The website is regularly updated, so keep visiting lynsted-society.co.uk.



Past, present and future come together in our extremely popular Society Members' Christmas Carols over mulled wine, mince-pies and many other delicious delights! We count ourselves very lucky that the owners of Dadmans and Aymers have hosted the Society party since it began. The Committee are so grateful for the participation and generosity of our Members in this and other events in promoting and managing the Society a real and enduring pleasure, and tasty!



A welcome awaits you at Dadmans

"Somehow now I can't imagine the build-up to Christmas without our Society event."





Plans for the future

When we started out on this road, your Society obviously struck a chord with you and now has around 100 members. That growth has something to do with the energy and enthusiasm of your Committee, but much more important has been the support and encouragement from our Membership. You have consistently supported the many events and projects, and contributed regularly with ideas for events, speakers and research material.

Of course, we are not alone in promoting the interests of fellow parishioners and we are proud to have added our particular voice to the wider group of active volunteers. As we move forward, many of our aims and objectives are shared with the Park Farm Community Cherry Orchard project, the Association of the Men of Kent and Kentish Men, the Church Fete Committee, the Parish Council and associated historical societies who support events that our Members can join in with – for example, the Kent History Federation. At the same time, we will strive to meet our Members wishes.

Always in our minds has been the hope that you have been able to find events and information over the past five year that makes your continued support worthwhile to you. We are also mindful that several of you have told us you have supported us simply because you believe that the Society deserves to succeed – for that we are grateful.

Here is to many more years of the Society and your valuable support!

Society events 2003 - 2008



2003

- 7 September Marking the Parish boundary
- 2 October The history and buildings of Doddington
Dr Arthur Percival MBE - local historian
- 26 November The Founding of the Society

2004

- 29 February Planting of the holly trees
- 26 May Guide to researching family history
Brian & Karen Tayler - Family History Society
- 23 June Portable antiquities scheme
Dr Andrew Richardson - Kent Finds Liaison Officer
- 6 August Exploring the world of bats
Shirley Thompson - Kent Bat Group
- 11 September Pugins in Kent
in partnership with the National Heritage Open Weekend
- 13 October Understanding local historic buildings
Peter Bell - Conservation Officer, Swale Borough Council
- 12 November Rustic Revels concert
Serenata
- 15 December Carols, mulled wine and mince pies at Dadmans

2005

- 10 February Gardening for wildlife
Sallie & David Shaw - Swale Certification Scheme, & Liz Care - assessor
- 15 April Derivation of place names
Dr Paul Cullen - University of Nottingham
- 15 May Tour of Hole Street Farm
Neil Anderson - local farmer
- 11 June Bus trip to the Chapel Down vineyards
- 9 September Early birds - history of aviation on Sheppey
Bill Croydon - local aviation historian



- 9 October Fungus Foray
Jo Weightman - fungi expert
- 28 October Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton
Anthea Bryant - historian
- 21 December Carols, mulled wine and mince pies at Dadmans
- 2006**
- 1 February Brogdale fruit collection
Peter Griffiths - Brogdale National Fruit Collection
- 15 March Historic Barns of Kent
Ray Harrison - retired Architectural Conservation Officer
- 29 April Kent Wildlife Trust - Doddington walk
Richard Moyse - Senior Conservation Officer, Kent Wildlife Trust
- 1 July Bus trip to Pugin's house and Ramsgate
- 16 September Lichens on gravestones in Lynsted
Keith Palmer - lichens expert
- 27 October Underground Kent - Deneholes
Rod LeGear - Kent Underground Research Group
- 20 December Carols, mulled wine and minced pies at Aymers
- 2007**
- 31 January A village remembered
A M 'Monty' Parkin - author and historian
- 14 March The bridges of Kent
Tony Norfolk - Kent Highways Agency
- 27 April Jane Austen's Kent
Anthea Bryant - historian
- 5 May Recording gravestones
Margaret Burns - Kent Family History Society
- 3 June Farm walk at Kingsdown and Erriotwood
Neil Anderson - local farmer
- 15 September Bus trip to Rye



- 9 October Hedgelaying demonstration
John Flower - expert hedge layer
- 26 October Wildlife in the Thames Gateway
Richard Moyse - Senior Conservation Officer, Kent Wildlife Trust
- 20 December Carols, mulled wine and mince pies at Dadmans
- 2008**
- 30 January Kent churches
John Vigar - historian
- 9 March The noble chafer beetle
Anita Burrough - People's Trust for Endangered Species
- 9 April Gems of Kent
Brian Fagg - Ancient Monuments Society
- 30 August Bus trip to Battle
- 24 October A celebration of the first five years of the Society

