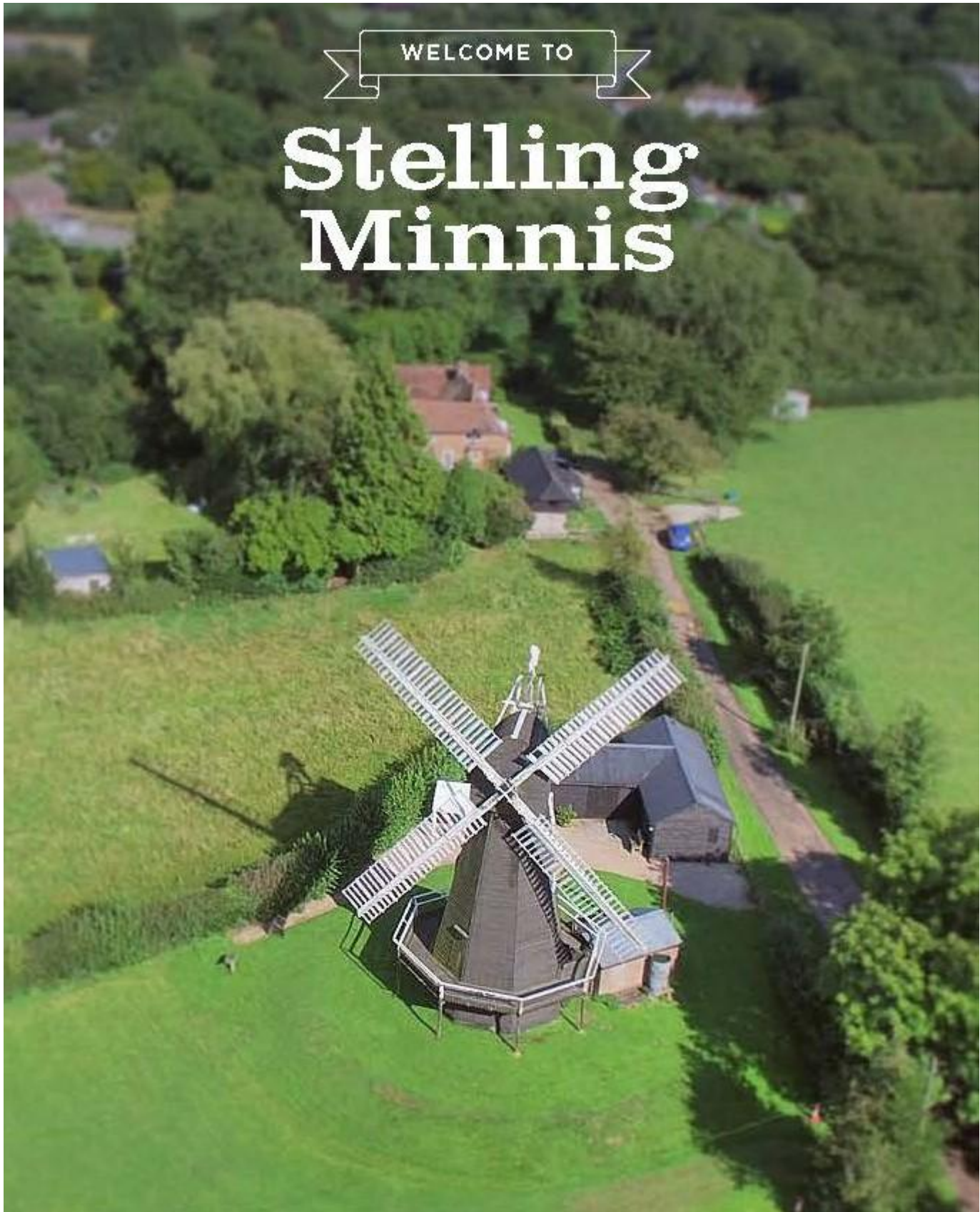


WELCOME TO

Stelling Minnis



Chairman's Welcome

As Chairman of Stelling Minnis Parish Council I would like to take the opportunity of saying a big welcome to our unique village. Stelling Minnis is set on the North Downs and has a rare and interesting environment which is not blighted by streetlights or excess traffic running through its centre. To many it is very near the utopian dream of the 'perfect place to live' for a peaceful and contented way of life.

There are many local activities and a number of vibrant organisations and clubs that may be of interest to people of all ages. Being a very open and interesting area of natural beauty, our 'Minnis' managed common land area, is available to all for air and exercise. Additionally, there are many interconnecting footpaths linking other near villages such as Bodsham, Elham, Bossingham and Petham to name but a few.

I hope you will find a great deal of interesting information in this new "Residents Welcome Pack". There are contact details for local services, clubs and societies, village schools, pubs offering food, the village shop and Post Office, the excellent monthly magazine and the village website.

There are many things to enjoy. From cream teas at the Grade 1 listed 'Davison Windmill,' to the Windmill Village Fete to name but two of the activities that takes place throughout the year.

If there's anything else that needs clarification, please contact Stelling Minnis Parish Council or any of the contacts listed in the information cards contained inside of this pack.

With kindest regards

Max Couch
Chairman
Stelling Minnis Parish Council

Useful Contact Information

Information on contacting most of the organisations including clubs & societies, County Councillor, District Councillors and Parish Council Clerk, are given on the Contacts page of the Hardres and Stelling News for telephone numbers and on the Stelling Minnis Village Web site at www.stellingminnisparishcouncil.gov.uk for e-mail addresses and links to relevant third party web sites.

Below is a summary of the key contact points together with information on doctors and vets in the immediate area.

Parish Councils:

Stelling Minnis Parish Council (for properties east of Stone Street)

- Clerk: Gail Hubbard
- Tel: 01227 831197/ stellingminnispc@outlook.com

Elmsted Parish Council (for properties on the west side of Stone Street).

- Clerk: Tracey Block
- Tel: 01233 750415 / elmstedpc.kentparishes.gov.uk

Folkestone & Hythe District Council:

Ward Councillors:

Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee – 01303 812066 / jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Cllr Elaine Martin – elaine.martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Sign up on the residents page for reminders on waste bin collection dates and other information at <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/recycling-waste-and-bins>

Kent County Council

Cllr Christopher Hespe - christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk

Member of Parliament:

Sojan Joseph - sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

Local Primary Schools:

Stelling Minnis CE Primary School. Tel: 01227 709218 / office@stelling-minnis.kent.sch.uk

Mobile Library Services

The mobile library service stops every alternate Friday between 11.30 and 12 noon opposite the Stelling Minnis Stores. Dates are also given in the Hardres and Stelling News and on the village web site whats-on page and on the Kent.gov.uk web site.

Doctors Surgeries

The two nearest doctors surgeries are in Lyminge:-

1. The New Lyminge Surgery - Tel: 01303 863160 (Greenbanks, Lyminge – as you leave Lyminge towards Folkestone).
2. Church Road Surgery – Tel: 01303 862109 (Church Road is the second road on the right as you enter Lyminge from Longage Hill/ Rhodes Minnis).

Both have dispensing services for residents of Stelling Minnis. Other surgeries are available in Elham, Wye, Chartham and Canterbury. There is also a dispensing chemist in Lyminge (Tel: 01303 862425).

Vets:

There are many veterinary practices in Canterbury, Folkestone and Ashford. Listed below are the nearest in Canterbury.

1. Barton Veterinary Hospital, 34 New Dover Road, Canterbury. 01227 765522
2. Bourne Veterinary Practice, Chalkpit Farm, Adisham Road, Bekesbourne, Canterbury. 01227 832322
3. Vets4pets, inside Pets at Home, Riverside Retail Park, Ten Perch Road, Canterbury. 01227 812884

Parish Churches:

There are two Parish Churches – St Mary's Stelling and Saints Peter & Paul in Upper Hardres. Both have pages on the Stelling Minnis Web site and write monthly in the Hardres & Stelling News with phone numbers.

Stelling Minnis Clubs and Societies

There are many clubs, societies and ways to be actively involving in Stelling Minnis life. More information is available on www.stelling-minnis.co.uk

Cesspool and Septic Tank Emptying Services:

Prospective users should ascertain prices for themselves, as they vary depending upon circumstances, size and whether Cesspool or Septic is to be emptied. Below is a list of local companies or check the village website (www.stelling-minnis.co.uk) for the latest information:

- Cleansing Services Group Ltd. 01622 717717 or 0500 053 429
- D. Body. 01622 631688.
- R & R Environmental Services. 01233 820270.

- S & D Sewage Services Ltd. 07850 552706 / 01622 844708
- Southern Cesspool Services. 01233 732407
- Sucklifts. 01233 840624.

Please note that further information is available from www.stelling-minnis.co.uk/cesspools

Advice to all cess pools and septic tanks owners

If you are connected to mains drains or have a completely self-contained cesspool then you do not need to read on. For everybody else the following is a summary of a legal requirement for you to take. Failure to do so could result in further action being taken by the Environment Agency.

If you are connected to mains drainage this won't concern you. If you are not on mains drainage you will have to decide what kind of a system you have - Is it a cesspool or a septic tank? A proper cesspool is a sealed tank with no outflow and it has to be emptied regularly (for example monthly). A septic tank is in effect a mini sewage works. It should have two compartments and method for the wastewater to drain away, usually into land drains in what is called a drainage or leaching field, or a soakaway, or a water course. In the Stelling Minnis area they may drain into a bore hole which has been sunk to the underlying chalk bed because the land does allow sufficient drainage. The official guidance is that these should be emptied (desludged) twice a year. In practice they can work well, and many people may not have had them emptied for years. There are also some which are in between and these are usually older brick cesspools (modern ones are usually fibre glass) which may have lost some bricks in the side - either accidentally with age or even on purpose (not done by yourself of course but some previous resident). In these cases, the waste is still foul water and drains away into the ground. In practice this is illegal as are septic tanks draining directly onto the land or bore hole without an intermediate filter chamber. Septic tanks draining via a filter bed to a deep bore hole must also meet certain other criteria relating to distance from water extraction sources and ground conditions which prevent the more acceptable land drain (leaching fields) systems from being used – percolation tests have to be carried out to prove that the ground is unsuitable for land drainage.

Septic tanks and other sewage systems which drain into water courses bore holes or the ground, or multi-user sewage systems are required to register with the Environment Agency. Septic tanks that discharge directly into the ground or a bore hole, i.e. not via filtration system, or systems which are not regularly emptied (de-sludged), will not be able to be registered and will require an environmental permit.

In some circumstances where a registration cannot be accepted then the owner may have to apply for an environmental permit for which could involve a site inspection. Examples of circumstances include if you have not had the tank emptied in the last six months or it is within a given distance of a drinking water extraction point.

There are other factors, which can affect the acceptance of registration such as the volume discharged and the number of residents. The rules also apply to business premises including farms.

If you are on the internet go to the environment agency web site:

www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/118753.aspx or

<https://www.gov.uk/permits-you-need-for-septic-tanks>

This contains all the information, questions and answers and links to gather the information you need to register, including national grid map reference and a quick calculator for the volume of liquid discharged based on number of people in the premises (over or under 9 persons) and links to register your sewage system.

If you are not on the internet then there is a manual option available via a link from the same web site – you will need to get a friend to download and print the form for you, go to the library and use the internet there or obtain a form by post from the environment agency Tel: 03708 506 506 (Mon - Fri 8am - 6pm)

A copy of the registration and permit must be filed with the deeds of the property and you should keep receipts as proof of regular emptying (desludging) and maintenance for 5 years. Property sales could be held up for those properties where registration and a permit are required and they have not been obtained.

Hardres and Stelling News

The Hardres and Stelling News is the Village magazine for the Villages of Bossingham, Stelling Minnis and Upper Hardres; a sample copy is enclosed with this welcome pack. The magazine is published monthly with a low yearly subscription payable in January. If you wish to subscribe, please contact Margaret Crawford on 01227 709568 and she will be happy to add you to the circulation list. Copies can either be delivered by one of Margaret's band of volunteers or you can arrange to collect from Stelling Minnis Stores. However, if you do not wish to subscribe but still wish to purchase the occasional magazine then a few copies are available in Stelling Minnis stores – but you will have to be very quick to get one. Current annual subscription charges are given on the Hardres and Stelling News page of the Stelling Minnis village web site www.stelling-minnis.co.uk

The magazine carries news and regular features from many of the clubs and societies and other organisations, including County, District and Parish Councils and the two churches as well as letters and other items of interest. It also carries contact details for the club and societies and other relevant organisations as well as a rolling 2 months "what's on" diary. In addition, it is also a good reference for local businesses and service providers who advertise in the magazine and without whom the subscription cost could not be kept very low. If you are a local businessperson, and wish to consider advertising in the magazine, then please contact Ann Day on 01227 709880 or visit the Hardres-Stelling news page on the village web site www.stelling-minnis.co.uk

I always welcome articles of interest from readers – just e-mail your article to smwebmag@yahoo.co.uk or leave it in Stelling Minnis Stores for my attention. Colour photos in portrait format (jpg files) for the front cover are also welcome.

Nick Smith
Editor