

1. Many years ago, the Church Bakery stood opposite the gate of the village school. At playtime, the assistant would leave the shop and stand outside the school gate holding a tray of hot currant-buns for the children to buy, or maybe they would have yesterday's left-overs at half price. They all tasted good. Happy memory!

2. The village library was kept in the school about half a century ago. It was in cupboards in the room next to the main door. On Friday afternoons, the top class would take the library books out of the cupboards and lay them out on the desks, then in would come the villagers requiring books, and the bigger children would stamp the date and file the tickets. It was a cramped arrangement, not really satisfactory. Then the school was "decapitated" under the 1944 Education Act, the senior children being taken away, and the library was moved to one room in Station Road, where it stayed for many years. Recently the old railway station was made into a very modern library, a decided asset for a village this size.

3. What a pity when old names are replaced. Surely Eachendhill is a more attractive name than Etchingill, and gives the idea of it being surrounded by hills. The old signpost at Broad Street points to Eachendhill while the third gravestone up from the porch door of the Church states that " the body of W. Rigden of Eachendhill" lies there. What a pity such a descriptive name should be lost.

4. David Spycer, who died in 1558, bequeathed a silver chalice, to Lyminge Church. The chalice actually bears the date 1578, so there was delay in carrying out the bequest, probably owing to the Reformation. Was David Spycer, the ancestor of the people who farmed at Spicer's Farm, Etchingill, though the present house there was not built until 1654 and was probably built by William Hogben?

5. Churches were vandalised even in the days gone by. In the Plea Rolls of Henry III, in the early thirteenth century, we read:  
"A man was pursued to the Abbey of Boxele by a certain chaplain for stealing a chalice in the church of Lyminge. It was found upon him, having been broken to pieces."

6. Lyminge church clock was first illuminated for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, it being the only public clock in the village. An old Mass Clock can, however, be found in the wall near to the flying buttress. Faint lines, indicating the hours can still be seen, also the hole in which the pin of the dial stood. There was also a similar Mass Clock at the south-east corner of the chancel of Paddlesworth Church. Is it still visible? These clocks, or dials, belong to the period 1350-1500, so they have withstood some weather in that time.

7. To commemorate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, the Church Clock was provided with flood lighting, a seat was placed near ERDC council Offices, (now Everist Court) and a flowering Cherry Tree planted in its grounds. Given later, privately, was a row of trees, planted in the field alongside Broadstreet Cottages. Well established trees already stood in the field alongside Broadstreet House so it was hoped that Lyminge would eventually be entered through an arch of trees as in Elham.

8. The church has been lucky in the past with its benefactors. Mr. Mrs. Finn- Kelcey had electric light installed, complete with power house, in 1933 the lights being first used on Easter Day. They also gave generously toward the building of a Church Hall, Mrs. Finn-Kelcey laying the foundation stone in March, 1932. What a pity the Hall only lasted for about fifty years. A Village Hall is not the same as a Church Hall.

9. Around the turn of the century, a unique cross stood in the Churchyard. It was in the shape of a Celtic cross and on it was engraved "In Memory of Parishioners and Strangers, who are buried near this place, and to the Glory of GOD, who gathered the Outcast of Israel " It was to commemorate the final resting place of some of the tramps and way-farers who died in the Poor Law Institution, Etchingill. It disappeared long ago.

10. . The Elham Union House, or Poor Law Institution, Etchinghill, was built in 1836 at a cost of £4,500 to house 300 inmates. About 1847, it was enlarged by the addition of two side wings. Until perhaps thirty years ago, a "kiosk" stood inside the gate containing a person to whom the tramps had to apply for a night's rest and sleep. The old ladies resident there, were often entertained to tea and a short concert in the grounds of "The Hook" and would walk along the road all neatly dressed in their long skirts, bonnets and shawls.

11. Without comment'. A book on "KENT") by Hasted, published in 1799, states...  
 " Not far from Westwood, are two long commons or heaths, the one called Rhode, and the other Stelling, Minnis. There are numbers of houses and cottages built promiscuously on and about them, the inhabitants of which are as wild, and in as rough a state, as the country they dwell in ."

12. There are old houses and buildings scattered all around the Parish. Broadstreet House is upwards of 250 years old, but a residence had been there long before, belonging to the Sloddens (later spelt Sladdens). The wills of this family, bearing dates from 1483 (in Latin), up to 1757 were proved in the Consistory Court of Canterbury. Rhodes Farm, Rhodes Minnis, seems comparatively recent, although the farm buildings seem to be older, but according to the County Rolls, now in the Records Office, London, there was a Rhodes Farm there in 1327. It was mentioned again in 1332, 1334 and subsequently. A few Tudor Houses are still in existence, Old Robus, Ridge Hill House and parts of Mockbeggar Farm for example, but there seemed to be quite a "Building Boom" in the Seventeenth Century, Lyndon Hall, Spicer's Farm, and Home Farm, Rhodes Minnis being some of the houses and the New Inn, Etchinghill being one of the "pubs". Until recently, the last named still had a hitching rail with six rings to which horses would be tied.

13. There are many streams and springs around the parish, the "oldest vicarage" now being called 'The Springs'. In its garden was a large bathing pond, with suitable shelters, where the village boys and girls learnt to swim. This was still there in the early 1930s.

14. What are now called Ark Cottages, Etchinghill, was the original village ale-house, when in about 1635, a new public house was built, it was called The New Inn (being only part of the present building), and the Ark continued to flourish as well until about 1913, when it closed and became cottages. In 1982, numbers 1 & 2 were in a poor state of repair and were eventually completely remodelled and turned into one house. Outside number 1, there used to be the hand-pump which served the row of cottages. Until the mid-forties, a very helpful, very small man could be seen with buckets, getting water for his neighbours. The bungalow across the road from Little Orchard, similarly had no tap water, the inhabitants had to get their water from the covered end of a cattle trough in the adjacent field.

15. In the early part of this century, the Ark Inn, Etchinghill, kept a notice in its window, "Beef Pudding Club held here every Saturday Evening." Most of the members were agricultural labourers, but one Folkestone man used to walk out to Each End Hill, and he said how proud the landlady was of her crust, "she could make a crust with anybody in the land." The pudding was a "whopper" and came in as an island surrounded by gravy, complete with potatoes, parsnips and turnips, to which everyone present did full justice.

16. Ned Parker was one of the last despatch riders, who used to travel between Dover and London, before the coming of the railway. Whatever the weather and at all hours, he would set out on his journey, and in his hey-day, had ten horses at his disposal. Later he became more of a local carrier. One day, while taking a fare to Newington, in a snowstorm, his horse dropped dead. He now faced going into the "workhouse." and was naturally very upset. However, the local paper, hearing of the case, raised a subscription list, and within a week sufficient money was raised to buy him a new horse. He died eventually in the Poor Law Institution, Etchinghill, at the age of eighty.

17. Residents of the Parish of Lyminge according to an old directory of about 1847.

Banks, James, bricklayer	Prebble, John - carpenter
File, George - shopkeeper	Price, Rev: Ralph, - rector

SNIPPETS – author unknown

File, Thomas - carrier	Rigden, Henry Esq.;, Broad Street
Fox, Miss E - schoolmistress	Squire, Elizabeth - grocer
Hogben, Thomas - smith	Tylden, Rev: William
Hogben, William -carpenter	Valder, Frederick, -schoolmaster
Jacob, Thomas, grocer	
<i>Farmers:</i>	
Kelcey, Stephen Stone Hall	Brice, Daniel
Kelcey, Stephen Esq. Stone Hall, -	Broadbridge, George
Kemp, Thomas - shoemaker	Buss, Daniel
Laver, George Esq. - solicitor	Hogben, Edward
Fox, George - shoemaker	Hogben, Richard
Friend, Thomas - Coach & Horses	Jacob, Thomas
Gibbs, Stephen - corn miller	Pilcher, Thomas
Hobbs, Mr William, agent, Sibton	Obviously there would be others. Perhaps these were the most important or freeholders.
Hobbs, James - tailor	

18 Are your ancestor's here? Residents of Each End Hill about 1847.

Dent. Noah - beerhouse.	Kilroy, Michael -Governor of Union.
Pledge. Thomas - butcher.	Rigden, Edward -carpenter.
Standforth Mr. Thomas.	Collick, John
Rigden Thomas - Farmer.	Rigden Henry.- Farmer.
<b>Residents of Woodlands:</b>	
Nonnington, Michael - Farmer.	Prebble George
Residents of Mock beggar:	
Broadbridge William- Farmer	Swain, Nicholas
<b>Residents of Shuttlesfield:</b>	
Kelcey, John grazier.	Hambrook, Richard
Laws, Wm & G graziers	Sawkins, William
Woollett. Norwood jun:	
<b>Residents of Paddlesworth</b>	
Finch, Henry - blacksmith	Jennings, Glazier(nickname?) -farmer.
Fox, Robert – thatcher & victualler,	Woollett, Daniel - farmer
March, Robert - farmer	Obviously there would be more residents, but these may have been the most important or the freeholders.

19 The English Countryside has its own peculiarities with regard to names, addresses and whereabouts. Going up Westfield Lane, Etchingill, who would think to walk past a dozen or so houses before coming to number 1? Then after passing numbers 2,3 & 4 one again comes to houses minus any numbers. Also at Etchingill, if one approaches from Lyminge, the road sign in front of you reads Upstreet for the turning on the left. If however one comes from Folkestone, the sign in front of you for that turning, reads Teddars Leas Road. People have been known to finish up in Cheriton after reading Upstreet for Teddars Leas Road. Broadstreet has no sign or nameplate anywhere, yet everyone knows the area, the name having been used for hundreds of years. The Lince, Milky Down, Gipsy Green are all names that have just been forgotten as the years have gone. Why could not they also have been used!

20 Do you remember the gipsies? The School Attendance Officer used to try and round up the children, but they never stayed long. One day, nearly half a century ago, a gipsy mother arrived at school with two small boys- There being then no Head's Room, and the Head teaching a class, all interviews had to be conducted in front of the top class children, who were supposed to get on with their work. The mother was asked if the boys required dinners. Answering in the affirmative, and being told the price, to the amazement of the Head and the amusement of the class, she lifted her skirt, rolled down a black stocking and from under her instep took a ten shilling note. The Head took it very gingerly, and all looked to see if the change would go back there, but it didn't! One little girl proudly arrived with her name written on a scrap of paper, as her mum had been to

school. There it was in black and white, FEBE. She left before the Head decided whether to teach her it should be Phoebe.

21 Why New Barn? At the beginning of the 19th century, bands of farm-labourers, factory workers and similar men who were afraid that the coming of mechanisation would mean the end of their livelihoods, wandered round the countryside smashing machines, burning barns, dragging various implements into the middle of fields far from the farms. One band travelled round the Elham Valley and at the Canterbury Road-Postling crossroad, the barn was burnt down. Renee when a new one was built, it was -called. New Barn, which is the name of that corner even to-day. Not that there is any sign which says so

22 Teddars (sic) Leas Road at Etchinghill, was a nameless lane until comparatively recently. At the bottom on the right, was the remains of a stone barn. Unfortunately, this was burnt down about forty years ago. After the fire, burnt and maimed rats could be seen around the area, showing how many had inhabited the barn. Next to the barn was a village pond. It held its quota of *old* bicycle wheels etc., but on the rim grew the yellow Spanish iris. In heavy rain, the water running down the lane, went into the pond. Now it lies across the road. Further back from the road stood three cottages. The long low one was said by the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, to have been built in the thirteen hundreds as a Rest House for pilgrims travelling to the tomb of Thomas a Becket. The other two cottages were about the sixteenth century. All were most picturesque. That was the original Upstreet. In 1960, being declared too dilapidated to repair, they were all demolished, and the new Upstreet cottages were built.

23 Two semi-detached cottages, built on the main lane at Etchinghill in Tudor times, became a shop about 1935 with tea-room attached. This was very popular with all the troops stationed around the area during the War. The shop was most attractive, with shelves grouped in the old inglenook, and low beams across the room. Visitors especially foreign ones, loved to photograph it. However, at Easter 1978, the shop was closed. Town super-markets had won. Later it reopened as a home-made teashop and became very popular for some years. Last year, however, that closed and now the old building is a private residence. One hopes that Lyminge shops will continue to thrive; they are part of country life.

24 Do you remember the Sunday school picnics? Being taken to the appointed field in a wagonette drawn by the farmer's well groomed horses. In wet weather and at Christmas, the parties were held in the big annexe at the back of The Coach and Horses, there being no Church Hall, but that room has gone now. Talking of outings, who-remembers the local Women's Institute going on an outing to Hastings, in the local coal cart, well-scrubbed, of course?

25 The little church at Paddlesworth, standing amid trees, dates from Norman times. The ten pews are carved with the Fleur de lis, and many give the donor's name. In 1526, A local man John Barnesdale, left 5 shillings toward making a new image of St. Oswald, the patron saint. Was it ever made? Paddlesworth Court Farm has front walls nearly two feet thick and 250 years ago, had a supplementary kitchen built to accommodate its farm labourers. It must have employed a number of men. There was a village forge until 1930, when it "collapsed like a pack of cards."