

# SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

## December 2024

Edition 728



**OTTERPOOL PARK**  
COUNTRYSIDE • CONNECTED • CREATIVE

**Public Consultation** – We want to tell you more about our plans, hear your views and answer your questions. Come along to our drop-in public consultation event

**Where** – Sellindge Village Hall, Main Road, Sellindge TN25 6JY – **everyone is welcome.**

**When** – Tuesday 3 December 2024 – Pop in anytime between 3.30pm and 8pm

*If you are unable to attend, don't worry, we will be publishing information shared at this event on our website.*



**INDOOR TABLETOP SALES – Sellindge Village Hall 9am to 1pm. Sat December 7<sup>th</sup>**

Many stalls already booked a mix between household stalls and different crafts. Tables are £6 a 6-foot table. Refreshments available purchase. Parking and entry are free. To Book/info contact Jeanette 07753 283 575.



**Sellindge Sports & Social Club – New Year's Eve - Tapas and Disco!!!! 7pm till late Info see p 5**

SELLINDGE PC [www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk) 01303 813 271 [clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk)

The next meeting of your Parish Council is **Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup>** starting at 6.30pm in the Durling Hall.  
From your Parish Council Clerk Linda Hedley

**Dog Poo Bags** – Dog poo bags are still available from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moorstock Lane, he puts them on a patio chair or table outside his house, as does Cllr Bull who places on the front garden wall, in Swan Lane if you phone him on his mobile 07710 260 751. Also available from Dog Poo Bag dispenser located at the Main Village Green Entrance.

\*\*\*\*THE PARISH COUNCIL WISH ALL THE RESIDENTS OF SELLINDGE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS \*\*\*\*

## SELLINDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2025-2040

### STEERING GROUP MEETING

**Wednesday 4th December, 7pm in the Village Hall**

We need your help to continue the work on the Sellindge Neighbourhood plan, we need a little of your time, your views and your ideas, so please if you can come along to our next steering group meeting, it will be held on Wednesday 4th December.

The neighbourhood plan will help with provision of new facilities, allocate sites for housing, employment, recreation or wildlife needs. It will also deal with a wide range of issues such as environment, design, heritage and transport.

**IF YOU HAVE MISSED THIS MEETING OR THIS TIMING IS NOT GOOD FOR YOU, DON'T WORRY THERE WILL BE MORE MEETINGS & WAYS TO GET INVOLVED.**

Email: [admin@sellindge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@sellindge-pc.gov.uk)

#### LOCAL HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY –

#### WE NEED YOUR RESPONSES!

Sellindge Parish Council is looking for your help with a Local Housing Needs survey that you should have now received in the post.



The Rural and Community  
Housing Enabling Service

Part one is for all residents to respond to and part two for residents of any age who is in need of affordable housing.

The responses from this will also be incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan and published on the Parish Council website.

If you did not receive a survey card or would like a paper copy, pick one up from the Parish Council Office, the School, or follow this online link to complete:

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR RESPONDING TO SURVEY HAS BEEN EXTENDED  
TO FRIDAY JANUARY 17<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/sellindge> (<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/sellindge>)



#### MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR DECEMBER 2024

[www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries)

Lay By on A20 at the bottom of Swan Lane.

**Thursdays** – 9.15am to 9.45am on **December 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 2025 2<sup>nd</sup>**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

**Fridays** – 2.50pm to 3.20pm on **December 6<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**January 2025 3<sup>rd</sup>**



Kent Libraries



## **F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD – Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (Conservative)**

[jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) Mobile 07887 918 458  @jennyhollingsbe

**Age UK Hythe & Lyminge** – it has just been announced that the Lyminge Centre will close at the end of February. I have been in touch with the Chief Executive who confirmed that the Centre has been loss making for some and it has become impossible to continue running services from Lyminge. The Dementia Clinic will continue until February but then will probably transfer to Hythe, subject to funding as the Clinic receives no external funding and is subsidised through other services and reserves which is unsustainable.

**Gift card Scams** – There has been a rise in scams involving people being requested by criminals to purchase gift cards from stores. Gift card scams start with a call, text, email, WhatsApp or social media message. Scammers will say anything to get you to purchase gift cards, like Google Play, Apple, Steam, iTunes, or Amazon cards Never Assume – If you get a message from anyone claiming to be a friend or family member, or someone claiming to be from a reputable organisation such as HMRC, a bank, or the police, and you are asked to purchase any gift cards – STOP! – it will be a scam. Contact your Bank immediately, which you can do by calling 159 and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

**Rural England Prosperity Fund** – it has just been announced that this fund has been suspended as it is highly likely that the applications still to be assessed will, if granted, utilise the remaining funds.

**Home Essential Fund** - is a limited scheme to support low-income households with energy efficient solutions to help reduce their costs and supply more efficient items to replace broken ones. This includes:

- Boiler servicing to ensure boilers are as efficient as possible.
- Boiler replacement for items that are no longer suitable for use.
- Oil heating servicing and support for residents that use oil for fuelling their home.
- White goods provision. To supply replacement or new energy efficient items to households including cookers, fridges/freezers, washing machines/dryers, microwaves and other items as appropriate.
- Beds and mattresses to homes that do not have suitable bed provision.

For further information [Home Essential Fund | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

**My Account** – just a reminder to sign-up for My Account on the [www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](http://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) website. This allows you to report issues, search for information, see planning applications near you etc. It is also a good way to communicate with the District Council.

**Otterpool Park** – discussions are on-going with Homes England and the wastewater treatment plant planning application is imminent (so I am told). A public consultation has been announced for 3 December at Sellindge Village Hall from 3 30 – 8 pm. Papers on Otterpool will be considered at the Cabinet Meeting on 11 December 2024 and, as usual, will be webcast.

**Finally**, my thanks to the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, Sellindge Primary School, The Sports & Social Club, the Doctors' Surgery and all other organisations in the Village for all they do for the Village and particularly to Nigel for editing the monthly News Sheet published on line.

**May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and all Best Wishes for the New Year.**

**HI KENT – Reg Charity 1052036** [www.hikent.org.uk](http://www.hikent.org.uk)

*The local charity for people with a hearing loss*

Hi Kent provides FREE NHS hearing aid aftercare, advice and battery supply. The local hearing aid maintenance clinic will be in Coffee & Company in the Durling Hall, Sellindge Village Hall on – **December 10<sup>th</sup>** from 10.15am to 11.15am.

## **SELLINDGE WALKING GROUP**

We meet at the Village Hall on a Tuesday morning at approximately 10.20am and set off at 10.30am. We walk for 1 and 1/2 hours around the village using local footpaths. This does involve crossing fields and climbing over stiles so appropriate footwear is advisable.

We are no longer part of the NHS Walking for Health Scheme just a group of locals who enjoy walking. Everyone walks at their own risk.

## **F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD –**

**Cllr Elaine Martin Contact: (Green Party) [Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)**

**Firstly, can I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.**

I learnt on Friday afternoon that a decision had been made to close the Age UK Lyminge hub. This is a great loss to Lyminge and the surrounding villages. The decision was taken because the cost of running the facility was unsustainable and they had been making a loss on running the services there.

Dementia support will still be available in Hythe.

F&HDC are once again providing free festive parking in Folkestone Town Centre so you can do your Christmas shopping. Charges in Folkestone & Hythe District Council car parks and on-street pay and display bays are being waived on the three Saturdays leading up to the big day: Saturdays 7 December, 14 December and 21 December.

Progress in discussions with Homes England about becoming a strategic partner in the Otterpool Park development has been very slow. However, since the budget and some personnel changes at Homes England, we have seen a renewed determination from them to collaborate. We have the full support of our local MP, Sojan Joseph, and are hoping there will be some movement with these negotiations now.

Following the recent independent review of the NHS, the government has launched a national engagement exercise called ‘*Change NHS: A health service fit for the future*: a national conversation to develop the 10-Year Health Plan’. They want as much public opinions as possible and have a national website to share your experiences:

<https://change.nhs.uk/en-GB/> Please can I encourage you all to take time to fill in the form.

**KCC COUNCILLOR** Susan Carey, Elham Valley Ward. [susan.carey@kent.gov.uk](mailto:susan.carey@kent.gov.uk) 01303 670 561

The new Government’s Budget saw some welcome announcements on extra funding for Adult Social Care, children with Special Educational Needs, continued funding the Household Support Fund which helps the most vulnerable and extra money for road maintenance. Less welcome was the increase in the Employers’ National Insurance Contributions and the National Living Wage as these will increase costs particularly for the companies and charities we pay to deliver Social Care. It looks likely the increases in funding will all be taken by these cost increases. The final settlement for Local Government will be confirmed in late December and we expect we will need to make substantial savings to balance the KCC budget for 2025/26.

It was dismaying to see no changes in the Budget to eligibility levels to the Winter Fuel Allowance and KCC has a campaign to try to get more people to apply for Pension Credit so that they can still receive the Winter Fuel Allowance. The changes to Agricultural Property Relief, also alarming in their impact on family farms.

Current consultations include one on the use of pharmacies and another on KCC’s Education strategy and you can take part at <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> Matthew Scott, Kent’s Police and Crime Commissioner, also has a survey for the public to help shape the new Police and Crime Plan.

It takes around 5 minutes on the link : <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/PoliceandCrimePlan2024/>

There was a paper about the preparations for the much-postponed European Entry Exit System (EES) at the meeting of the Full Council at KCC on 07 November. EES, which replaces passport stamping with a biometric system, was due to be implemented from 11 November but most EU countries (including France) are not yet ready. I spoke in the debate to make the point that our communities face regular disruption to our roads whenever there are problems with cross Channel traffic quite apart from the potential of long delays as people register for EES. More needs to be done to enable people to register away from the ports and to manage the Cross-Channel traffic, both tourist and freight, so it doesn’t blight Kent’s roads. You can read the paper and see the full debate on the KCC website.

If you know of someone in financial difficulty then do check the KCC website for KentTogether which pulls together all the various schemes on offer to people who may have financial problems. For those simply concerned about meeting their winter fuel bills, do see what support may be available.

The KCC website [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) is a good place to start or you can ring 03000 41 92 92.

There’s also help available for those struggling with mental health and the website also has information on schemes to help you stop smoking, lose weight and exercise more. I am also very happy to personally help with completing forms for any of my parishioners who would like a hand.

I attended Sellindge Parish Council on 12 November and would like to thank your Parish Councillors and staff for the work they do. Thank you as well to all those who contribute to village life from being a good neighbour to helping with the many voluntary groups in the parish.

**I wish all Sellindge parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

## SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – SWAN LANE

**Sunday** – The Sunday Roast is back !!!! Eat in, takeaway and local delivery available, please call or text 07876 794323 or pm to book your Slot, book in advance to avoid missing out.

**Thurs** Pizza nights, **Fri** Fish and Chips, takeaway & local delivery available.

Open 9am Saturdays and Sundays serving Breakfast Rolls & full menu.

**Monday** – Crafty Crafters – 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

**Tuesday** – Whist Drive – 7pm

**Wednesday** – Pilates — 9.30am

**Thursday** – BINGO 8pm



**Elvis night** – bookings only Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm



**Christmas opening hours** – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December (Christmas Eve) 3pm - 9pm.

**Christmas Day** 12 till 2pm.

**Boxing Day** closed.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December** - 3 pm till late.

**New Year's Day** closed.

**Back to normal hours**

**Christmas Breakfast** - £10 including tea and coffee- need to book in advance **Christmas Eve at 10.30am**

**Christmas Eve** – we will be operating A takeaway and delivery service until 7pm –  
please contact us for details, delivery only available if arranged in advance.

**New years Eve** – Tapas and Disco! 7pm till late, tables need to be booked in advance, all welcome .  
Please contact us on face book or call or text 07876 794323



**AFC Sellindge** – Play in the Ashford & District Sunday League – Division 2 – KO at 10.30am

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** Away V Mersham reserves – – **Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Home V Mersham reserves

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Away V Hythe Green.



**Sellindge Ladies Football Club** play on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm they compete in the Southeast Kent Women's League in Division two.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Home V Folkestone Invicta.

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Home V The Plough, Whitstable.

**Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 9** play in the Ashford & District Youth League – Sats KO 10am

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup>** Away V South Ashford.

**Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 14 mixed** play Sundays in the Kent Girls/Ladies League Division 3 KO 10am

**Dec 1<sup>st</sup>** Away V Otford Utd Wildcats – U14 League Cup.



*Disclaimer – The views are the views of those making the submissions and is not necessarily the views of the Editor or Parish Council*



## Village Hall Weekly Events

### MONDAY

SUPERSTRIKERS	9.30am -10.30am	Main Hall <a href="http://www.superstrikers.co.uk">www.superstrikers.co.uk</a>
RAINBOWS	4pm – 5pm	Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
BROWNIES	5.15pm - 6.45pm	Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
LINE DANCING	7.30pm – 9pm	Main Hall – 07753 274 913

### TUESDAY

COFFEE & COMPANY	9am – 12.30pm	Main Hall
MOTHER & BABY GROUP	1.30pm – 3pm	Main Hall
LINE DANCING	6pm – 7.30pm,	Main Hall – 07989 210 449

### WEDNESDAY

BABY MASSAGE & TUMMY TIME	10am – 12.00 Noon	Durling Hall
PLAY GYM 0 – 6 months	1pm – 2pm	Durling Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
L+S TABLE TENNIS		Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
BEES BODS	5.45pm – 6.45pm	Main Hall - 01303 813 274
AEROBIC BODY BLAST	7pm - 8pm	Main Hall - 01233 820 109
LANGUAGE CLASSES	6pm – 8pm	Durling Hall

### THURSDAY

TINY TALK	10am – 11am	Durling Hall
PILATES	9.30 – 10.45am	Main Hall
PLAY GYM 6 – 12 months	12 Noon – 1pm	Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
PLAY GYM 12 months +	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
TAEKWONDO	Various classes from 5.15pm	Main Hall – 01303 814 635

### FRIDAY

RUGBY TOTS	9.15am – 10.15am	Main Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> SELLINDGE SCOUT GROUP	CUBS - 6 -7.30pm, SCOUTS - 7.30-9.00pm, 01303 813 250. <a href="mailto:1stsellindgesg@gmail.com">1stsellindgesg@gmail.com</a> (Term time)	BEAVERS - 6.00-7.15pm, EXPLORERS 7.30—9.00pm.

Both Halls

## Village Hall Monthly Events

### TUESDAY

PARISH COUNCIL 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm Durling Hall – Parish Clerk 01303 813 271

### WEDNESDAY

GET TOGETHER CLUB 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month 2pm – 4pm Durling Hall

### SATURDAY

TABLETOP FAIR 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month 9am – 1pm Main Hall

### SUNDAY

FARMERS MARKET 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month 10am – 1pm Main Hall



## Sellindge Village Hall

Halls available for hire.  
Meetings, Clubs, Parties,  
Wedding receptions etc

01303 813250 [sellindgevillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sellindgevillagehall@gmail.com)



## Stour Downs Parish Brabourne, Mersham, Monks Horton, Sellindge, Smeeth & Stowting Churches

Rev Susan Manners (Interim Curate in Charge) 01233 500 414 [www.stourdowns.org.uk](http://www.stourdowns.org.uk) also on Facebook

### STOUR DOWNS PARISH Vicar's letter

The period between 1<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> December is called Advent and is a time of waiting which seems very appropriate as we all wait for Christmas whether that is with joy, anxiety, or an interesting mixture of both. It's why we have advent calendars. The time of waiting for Christians is about waiting for the incarnation, the arrival of Jesus and waiting for Jesus to return. The twelve days from Christmas Day to twelfth night are the time to celebrate Christmas. I don't know how you feel about a 12 day celebration?

I don't know how you feel about Christmas Carols but this year we are having carols at the Dukes Head on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> from 7pm and also on the green in 24<sup>th</sup> at 5pm for 45 mins. Why don't you come along and sing carols with us. The chance to have a good sing along to traditional carols is always fun. You could also come along to the Christmas Crib service in the church at 5pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> where we retell the Christmas story and build the crib. We would love young ones to come dressed up as their favourite nativity character..

December is always busy in the church and with six to look after I will be rushing around quite a lot but it is important to me to find a moment of calm each day, to stop and take a breath and remember what the season is really all about. Not what present am I getting or how much can I afford to spend but actually Christmas is about love not stuff. The love of a father for his son and of all of us is at the heart of Christmas.

So, amidst all the rushing around try just to take a moment of calm to remember what Advent and Christmas are all about.

There is a lot going on this year in the church our churches with something almost every weekend during December culminating in a Christmas Day. Information about all of it is in the newsletter or on our website, the church notice board and Facebook. Would be lovely to see you at one or other of the services or events.

I wish you a Blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God Bless, Rev Susan

A poster for Stour Downs Parish Christmas. It has a dark blue background with white stars and yellow lines. At the top, there is a yellow star with a long tail. Below it, the text 'Follow The Star' is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath that, 'CALM and BRIGHT' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below this, 'Sellindge Church' is written in a large, white, serif font, and 'Christmas' is written in a large, white, serif font. In the center, there is a list of events: '13th December Carols at The Duke's Head 7pm', '23rd December Crib Service 5pm in the church', '24th December Carols on the Green 5pm near the bandstand', and '29th December Holy Communion 9:30am in the church'. At the bottom, there is a white cross icon followed by the text 'THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND'.

## December 2024

<b>1st December Advent Sunday</b>	Smeeth 9:30am Communion <i>Live-Stream</i>	Mersham 9:30	Brabourne 10am Christingle		Monks Horton 6pm Advent Carols
<b>8th December Advent 2</b>	Mersham 9:30am Communion <i>Live-Stream</i>	Smeeth 9:30	Stowting 9:30am Family Service		Mersham 6pm Carol Service
<b>15<sup>th</sup> December Advent 3</b>	Smeeth 9:30am Communion	Mersham 9:30 Christingle	Brabourne 11am Communion	Mersham 3pm Bringing light to loss	4:30pm Stowting Carol Service  The Five Bells, Brabourne 6pm Carols
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December Advent 4</b>	Mersham 9:30am Communion	Smeeth 9:30	Smeeth 4pm Carols <i>Lees Court</i>		Brabourne 7pm Nine Lessons & Carols
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>			Sellindge 5pm Crib Service		
<b>24<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve</b>	Mersham 3pm Crib Service	Smeeth 4pm Crib Service	Sellindge 5pm Carols on the Green	Monks Horton 6pm Carols	Smeeth 11:30pm Midnight Communion

## Christmas in the Stour Downs



1st December	10 am Christingle at Brabourne 11-3 Christmas Tree Festival at Mersham 6pm Advent Carols at Monks Horton
8th December	6pm Mersham Carol Service
13th December	7pm Carols at the Dukes Head, Sellindge
15th December	3pm Bringing Light to Loss at Mersham 4:30pm Stowting Village Carol Service 6pm Carols at the Five Bells, East Brabourne
22nd December	9:30am Christingle at Mersham 4pm Lees Court Carols at Smeeth 7pm Brabourne Carol Service
23rd December	5pm Crib Service at Sellindge
24th December Christmas Eve	3pm Crib Service at Mersham 4pm Crib Service at Smeeth 5pm Carols on the Green, Sellindge 6pm Carols by Candlelight at Monks Horton 11:30pm Midnight Communion at Smeeth
25th December Christmas Day	9am Christmas Day Communion at Mersham 10am Christmas Day Communion at Brabourne 11am Christmas Day Communion at Stowting

