

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 2020

Edition 673



Join your neighbours in a nationwide 'stay at home' street party!

Prepare for the day by decorating your house in red, white and blue.

11am
2 minutes silence on your doorstep

3pm
Churchill speech shown on BBC

Then grab your picnic blankets or garden table and head to your front garden for:

4pm
Tea & scones (or coffee & cake)

6pm
Dinner and raise your glass to your neighbours

9pm
Nationwide sing-a-long to 'We'll meet again' with Royal British legion after the Queen's address

Please remember to follow the social distancing rules.

VILLAGE POND DUCKHOUSE

The village pond duck house has its first residents, a pair of Moorhens, have successfully reared a family, first of many to come.

VE Day

The Village Hall all decorated up for VE Day May 8th. A special thank you to KCC Cllr Susan Carey for providing a grant for the Village Hall to get new flags for the flagpole.



The Parish Councillors hope that you are all keeping safe and that you have not been affected too much by the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Your Parish Councillors have been receiving information via emails and considering 1 or 2 planning applications that were relevant to Sellindge. Dog poo bags are still available **FREE** from the Parish Council, however you are asked to phone the Chairman on 07710 260751 and he will arrange a time for these to be left on his garden wall in Swan Lane (near the Club) for you to collect.

(The new Parish Council office came in mid-March →→→→→)

Although your Parish Council emailed Gladman Ltd asking them not to go

ahead with the second on line consultation the company did go ahead and sent out leaflets via the post office. Your Parish Council sent a further email stating that they would not support this second consultation. In addition, Cllr Hollingsbee also sent strong representation to the company.

The Parish Council office is still closed, but some of you may have noticed (if you have attended the Drs Surgery) that over the last few weeks that, as your clerk, I have been working in the new office getting everything in order by going through old files and papers; it is so interesting when you find, projects, and all manner of things that you dealt with in years gone by, completed and then forgotten.

Even though the Parish Council office is still closed due to the Covid-19 restrictions you can still email clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk or phone 01303 813 271 the Sellindge Parish Council and I will return your call, reply to your email soon as possible. At this is time there is no meeting for June, however should there be a change in the rules on Lockdown and a meeting is arranged then, notices will be placed on the noticeboards and Parish Council Website. PC Clerk – Linda Hedley



BONFIRES

Please avoid having bonfires while the coronavirus guidelines are in place. Smoke from bonfires contains chemicals which can harm health, irritate lungs and cause problems with breathing / asthma and cause problems for people that are already suffering from COPD.

There may well be quite a few people in the Village who are very anxious about Covid-19. Please be considerate of your neighbours. Bonfires can put people's health at risk.

SELLINDGE SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB

Although the Club is completely closed, the kitchen can still be used.

We are offering a **DELIVERY ONLY** service on Friday's and Sunday's within Sellindge.

We will be following all recent guidelines in regards to COVID 19.

Please call 07876 794 323 to make advance order or 01303 812 437 during delivery times, you can also PM us.

Please let any elderly neighbours who would be interested in hot food but may not be on facebook aware.

Sunday afternoon delivering between **1pm and 5pm** (advanced orders welcome to make sure we have enough!)

Sunday Roast - Beef, Gammon or Turkey and Seasonal Veg – Carvery Baguette and Roast Potatoes

Homemade Cottage Pie and Seasonal Veg – Scampi, Chips and Peas

Gourmet Cheese Burger and Chips – Halloumi Burger and Chips – Veggie Burger and Chips

Chicken bites and Chips

Friday Evening delivering between **4pm and 8pm**

Fish and Chips – Scampi and Chips – Sausage and Chips – Battered Sausage and Chips

Cheeseburger and Chips – Halloumi Burger and Chips – Vegetarian Burger and Chips

Chicken Bites and C hips – Chicken Tikka Pitta Bread and Chips – Chicken and chorizo Paella with Prawns

Bottles of Wine – Cans of Beer – Soft Drinks

FROM YOUR FOLKESTONE & HYTHE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Jenny Hollingsbee and Susan Carey, Ward Councillors for North Downs West, F&H D C

Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk 01303 812 066 susan.carey@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk 01303 670 561

As the number of calls received by the three Community Hubs based in Folkestone, Hythe & Romney Marsh reached more than 14,000, a reminder has been issued about their purpose. Set up in March and funded by Folkestone & Hythe District Council together with charities, the hubs are working to help those who are vulnerable and isolated with no family nearby to support them during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Volunteers have given up their time and potentially put their own health at risk to deliver essentials, such as food and medicines, and it is important that they are used appropriately. The Community Hub for Sellindge is Hythe 01303 269602 Covid-19@ageukhl.co.uk and this is open 9am-4pm currently 7 days per week but subject to change. There is also District Council Covid-19 Helpline on 01303 761 116 open 9am-5pm 7 days a week Covid-19@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk and KCC 24/7 – Kent Together support Telephone No 03000 419 292.

With regard to Gladman's proposed development of 55 houses in the Village, we tried very hard to get them to withdraw their consultation process but unfortunately they absolutely refused to do this. Whilst it is deplorable that Gladman wish to push ahead with this application during the current pandemic, we can assure you that if, and when their application is submitted we will ensure it goes to the Planning Committee for decision.

Unlike other parts of the County, our kerbside Waste collection service continues to operate uninterrupted and the Garden Waste Service is still operating and is accepting new customers - details on the District Council website.

For any small business in the area, this may be of use to you. _

Coronavirus Small Business Grant & Retail Hospitality & Leisure Grant Scheme – all businesses eligible for these grants need to provide account details for these payments using an electronic form on the council's corporate website which can be accessed through this link <https://www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/business-grant-fund>

A number of informal Council Meetings are now taking place remotely and there are plans to hold formal Council Meetings towards the end of May when the technology has been fully tested.

If there are any issues we can help you with, please do contact us.

FROM YOUR KCC COUNCILLOR Susan Carey, Elham Valley Ward. susan.carey@kent.gov.uk 01303 670 561

It has been a very intense time at the County Council as with our responsibility for the most vulnerable in Kent, we have had to adapt services at top speed to they can still be delivered safely. This has meant KCC has become a massive buyer and distributor of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) to our own staff, our partners and the NHS. Between 03 and 23 April, we had supplied over 1.4 million pieces of PPE in over 700 separate deliveries – all essential to support the safe provision of services. KCC has also continued with road repairs and resurfacing projects, the call centre has remained open and we have set up Kent



Together which acts as a 'catch all' contact point for people needing help. Between the launch of Kent Together on 01 April to midnight on 25 April there have been 4,293 requests for help which are then referred to the community hubs funded from the District Councils and run by them, charities and volunteers. It has been remarkable and cheering to see how many people want to help others.

As Cabinet Member for Environment at KCC I've been working with the officers and my cabinet colleagues on the Covid-19 response including such things as an emergency mortuary which we hope will not be needed. Waste management falls in my area of responsibility and, whilst it's been good to see how appreciated the bin men have been, they could not do their work without the KCC staff who receive the recyclables and residual waste. KCC has given priority to this work and with sickness and self-isolation reducing numbers we have reinforced some of the district workforce to help with kerbside collections. (This was not needed in Folkestone & Hythe but some parts of Kent have suffered sickness levels of up to 85%.) Now plans are in place to re-open the Household Waste Recycling Centres. I hope to be able to announce the details of the booking system we're introducing to control demand so that there can be social distancing on the sites reducing risk for both users and staff.

The libraries remain closed but you can still join the library online and borrow e-books and magazines. Schools are open for the children of key workers. Council offices are closed but all our office-based staff are able to work remotely. Our Brexit contingency plans meant we were prepared for some of the disruption that has happened.

So much changes day by day that it's always best to check the website for the latest news and www.kent.gov.uk brings together a lot of useful information which is regularly updated.

Some people are chafing at the current restrictions on normal life and we

should not underestimate either the human suffering or the damage to our economy that the lockdown brings. However, it is still the case that by staying at home we can all help stop the spread of the virus. Please keep supporting one another whether directly or through a friendly phone call and stay safe.

Susan Carey

Kent Together HELPLINE

The Kent Together helpline is being coordinated by Kent County Council, working alongside Kent's district and borough councils, fire, health and police services.



HI KENT – Due to Corona virus I will not be doing the hearing aid batteries until further notice. If people ring me on 01303 813 271 only on clinic days between 1.45pm & 3.45pm (May 12th). This phone will only work on clinic days. I will arrange a time for them or a neighbour to pick up batteries.

Mary Devine

STOUR DOWNS PARISH CHURCHES – ST MARY'S CHURCH SELLINDGE

Rev. Chris' Thoughts

The Stour Downs Parish is certainly a good place to be on “lockdown”, with the wonderful countryside in its full springtime glory during the spell of good sunshine we have had recently, being able to enjoy it on the prescribed daily walk for our wellbeing whilst we stay at home. In the fields around are the joyful signs of new life, with the lambs and bluebells, and the busy tractors remind us of the hardworking farmers continuing to provide us with food.

The Rectory garden is full of magnificent bird song (and aren't the skies suddenly so quiet and empty without aircraft), and my children have enjoyed the regular visits of the pheasant who parades through each day calling out for the lady pheasants! He has made regular guest appearances on the live-stream services broadcast from the Rectory.

We are also able to access the vital services we need in being not too far from the essential supermarkets, surgeries, and the hospital. My thoughts go out to those who are isolated far from these lifelines and to those who have no outdoor space to exercise, enjoy the sunshine for their well-being, and for families living in tower blocks.

Simply sitting in the garden listening to the birds in the sunshine has been very calming whilst worrying about the spread and effects of Covid-19. It has been something of a spiritual exercise, tuning in to God's creation and leaving the anxieties and low-points of this time with God.

All this has reminded me of the Psalms in the Bible. The Psalms were written in times of distress, challenge and adversity. They have a structure that remembers all the good things God has done in the past and his presence in difficult times, appealing for his help, often ending with a hopeful and joyful glimpse of a better future.

In this challenging time, I pray that you may find strength, hope and joy in the good things around us, and perhaps in prayer and scripture too.

God bless, and stay safe and well,

Chris

Our buildings are closed but your Parish Church is alive and active.

Sunday services on the Stour Downs Parish Facebook Page – live video from 9:30am and posted afterwards on the page to view <https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319>

OR BY PHONE: dial the number shown below and enter the Room number followed by the hash key and then PIN followed by hash key when prompted.

Dial: 0333 0110 945

Room number: 15371271#

PIN: 1030#

Morning and Evening Prayer is posted each day at 9am and 6pm on our Stour Downs Parish Facebook

If we can be of any help in this difficult time, please contact Di Dawson on

07779 680 003 / 01303 813 398 / cirrus.five@yahoo.co.uk or The Rectory on 01303 470 791



A superb painting by the Residents and Support Staff of Richardson Court

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