

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

DECEMBER 2020

Edition 680



We're very pleased to say that Santa will be coming to Sellindge again this year on 18th December (weather permitting) more details nearer the time. The Elves won't be allowed to knock for donations for Sellindge Primary School because of Covid-19 so we have set up a Just Giving page instead and we would be really grateful for any donations you can give. Thanks in advance!

<https://www.justgiving.com/.../sellindge-primary-school...>

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!



Hi All

We would like to say Thank You again for your support over the last few weeks. We couldn't do it without you. Our opening hours will be 6am – 10pm on all services over Christmas and New Year except the following days :-

23/12/2020 – The Post Office will close at 9pm.

24/12/2020 – Shop and Post Office will be open from 8am to 8pm

25/12/2020 – **CLOSED**

26/12/2020 – Shop 8am to 8pm and Post Office 9am to 7pm.

31/12/2020 – Shop 7am to 8pm and Post Office 8am to 7pm.

01/01/2021 – Shop 8am to 8pm and Post Office 8.30am to 7pm.

02/02/2021 – Shop and Post Office will be open from 6am to 8pm.

We also have some refit news. It looks like the date may have been pushed back by 4 weeks. Will keep you updated. The Co-Op team wishes everyone a Very Merry Christmas.

After this year, be Merry and have a Happy New Year.

SELLINDGE SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB

As we get ready to move into tier 3 our doors will sadly remain closed. It's a very different December for everyone, we miss our regulars and friends (well most of them lol!!) and all the fun and laughter that we usually have.

We massively appreciate everyone's support over the last year and cannot wait to welcome you back when it's safe to do so.

Please stay safe, be happy and do get in contact if you need a smiley face 😊.

We are able and are continuing to do our Friday night take way and delivery.

Stay safe Kerry and Nick

CHRISTMAS OPENING AT THE SELLINDGE SURGERY DISPENSARY

Weds & Thurs 24rd & 24th – 8.30am to 1pm. ****Christmas Day CLOSED**** - Bank Holiday Monday (28th) **CLOSED**

If you require repeat prescription over Christmas, please ensure your request is in by Monday December 14th

We are also closed on **** New Year's Day **** - Friday January 1st 2021




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TIER 3

VERY HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY  <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS  <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	RETAIL  <p>Open.</p>	WORK AND BUSINESS  <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
EDUCATION  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	INDOOR LEISURE  <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	ACCOMMODATION  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	PERSONAL CARE  <p>Open.</p>
OVERNIGHT STAYS  <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS  <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	ENTERTAINMENT  <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	PLACES OF WORSHIP  <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
TRAVELLING  <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	EXERCISE  <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	RESIDENTIAL CARE  <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	LARGE EVENTS  <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.

gov.uk/coronavirus

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste

Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
gov.uk/coronavirus



Office opening

Due to the new Lock Down the Parish Council office is closed.

The Parish Council phone will be monitored for messages, and so will the email, which is the best form of contact.

Dog Poo Bags

Dog poo bags are still available from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moostock Lane, he puts them a patio chair outside his house, as does the Chairman. He places on the front garden wall if you phone him on his mobile 07710 260751. These can also be collected from the office. From your Parish Council Clerk Linda Hedley.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

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.



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

We start by repeating a section of our report from last month which we hope people find useful to have to hand again.

Events can move very quickly so it's best to check on www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk for the latest information on services. The call centre number is 01303 853 000 and if you get stuck you can always contact one of us.

During the second lockdown your District Council re-established community hubs to help with shopping, meals, dog walking etc for those who needed help.

The contact details are: Email covid-19@ageukhl.org.uk

Call 01303 269 602 (messages can be left outside opening Hrs)

Open Monday - Friday 8.45am - 3.45pm

The District Council is dealing with Government grants for businesses forced to close by law or adversely impacted by this second lockdown. To find out more go to www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/local-restrictions-support and complete the application form.

We know people have been concerned about the level of reported fraud nationally for such schemes and we'd like to reassure residents that claims are properly checked. It's been heartening to see how quickly the grants have been paid to businesses in need even with the necessary checks.

Our District had one of the lowest Covid infection rates in the country but it was rising sharply in line with other parts of the country so there is a real need for us to continue with social distancing, hand washing and the wearing of masks (unless exempt). Assuming Covid restrictions allow full shopping from 02 December, charges in all the District Council's pay and display car parks and on-street parking bays will be waived on Saturday 5 December, Saturday 12 December, and Saturday 19 December.

Please support our local traders both in the village and our local towns with your Christmas shopping.

We know that HGVs have been parking overnight despite the parking restrictions that the District Council has introduced. We continue to raise concerns with the officers about this problem and have been assured that Fixed Penalty Notices continue to be issued (and followed up with debt collection agents where not paid).

Like you, we miss all our usual village events but Jenny has been able to continue with her school governor meetings online at Sellindge Primary School as well as the meetings of the Sports & Social Club.

The new homes in Sellindge have been selling briskly and we'd like to welcome these new villagers to the community. We hope they will love Sellindge as much as we do.

We wish all of you in Sellindge, Stanford, Stowting and Monks Horton a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to those who serve on the Parish Councils, run the Churches, the Governors at Sellindge school, those who write for, edit or distribute this newsletter, those who run our local shops, pubs and businesses, the committee members of the Village Hall, the Peace Rooms and the Sports and Social Club.

Thank you to all the volunteers and all the good neighbours among us.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your District Councillors

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

07745 532075
Mobile Foot Health Practitioners.
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callus, fungal, fingernails, diabetic foot care
www.eastkentfootcare.co.uk

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

Some months ago the bus shelter on the A20 Ashford Road near the church was damaged beyond repair. Your Parish Council has plans to replace it and I have been helping them obtain a rural bus shelter grant from Kent Highways of £3,000 and £1,000 from my KCC Member Grant towards a new shelter in the same spot. The Parish Council has chosen a wooden shelter in the same style as the one it replaces.

'Bee friendly' bus shelters were one of the topics covered at 'Kent's Plan Bee' conference on 16 November which was attended online by nearly 200 people ranging from beekeepers to landowners, Parish Clerks and members of the public. The conference covered work KCC is doing to protect and restore pollinator friendly habitat as well as presentations by Buglife, Kent Wildlife Trust and a fruit farmer.

We intend to make a recording of the event available on the KCC website for those who couldn't attend.

Despite the bad weather, road repairs have been continuing. The latest report from Kent Highway Services shows the number of potholes filled in the Folkestone Hythe District in the week to 13 November was 73. In addition 31 square metres of road were patched, 5 potholes on pavements were also filled and 92 sqm of pavement were patched. This brings the total so far in 2020 to 4,027 potholes filled and 68,781 sqm of patching in our area. (Report potholes online at www.kent.gov.uk on 03000 418 181 in office hours or, if it's an emergency outside office hours, at 03000 419 191.) Looking at my newsletter entry for this time last year I see we were gearing up for potential problems on Kent's roads when we left the EU. One year on and we're doing the same for the end of the transition period. KCC continues to work with Kent Police, Highways England, the NHS and other partners to prepare for what the winter might bring, be it the 'normal' problems caused by bad weather or further lockdowns, test and trace or potential disruption to road traffic at the end of the Brexit transition period as well gearing up for a mass vaccination programme when a vaccine becomes available. We can't predict what will happen but we are as prepared as we can be.

KentTogether is there for all Kent residents and you can find it online at www.kent.gov.uk/kenttogether or 03000 419 292 (this is a 24/7 service). You can ask for help for yourself or someone who you are concerned about.

The Government has allocated KCC a winter emergency grant to support those most in need with the cost of food, energy and water bills and other associated costs and to ensure no child goes hungry over Christmas. 20% of the money can be allocated to people without children and KCC will work with the voluntary sector and the District Councils on how best to reach those in need, including those who are homeless.

I only have space for a small snapshot of the work KCC is doing in these reports and www.kent.gov.uk remains the best place to check for the latest information on KCC services as well as my 'The Elham Valley' Group on Facebook.

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council



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Email: annaparrett@tdenneandsons.co.uk

HI KENT

Due to Covid 19 the battery service for hearing aid users is not due to start yet.

In the meantime if anyone needs batteries they can ring Mary Devine on Tuesday 15th December 2020 and / or Tuesday 12th January 2021 between 2 and 3 pm on 01303 813 228 to arrange pickup.

SUPPORT SELLINDGE CHURCHYARD PROJECT when you shop at the Co-Op

The Co-Op Local Community Fund is supporting our project to create a wildlife area for all the community and improve the appearance and accessibility of the Churchyard at St Mary's, Sellindge, one of the six Stour Downs Parish Churches.

When the Wildlife Area and improved Churchyard projects are completed, the community, particularly families and older people, will be able to enjoy walks, wildlife spotting and learning about the natural environment. In creating this space, the community can come together to help work on preparing the wildlife area and improving the Churchyard, promoting positive well-being and community spirit.

Please select St Mary's Sellindge as a cause to support when you shop at the Co-Op by following this link:

<https://www.membership.coop.co.uk/causes/47395>

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THE STOUR DOWNS PARISH – SELLINDGE

In recent years the Church of England has promoted an Advent and Christmas theme, such as “*Follow the Star*” which we have used in the Stour Downs Parish as an invitation to explore the Christmas message and journey with us during Advent.

To reflect the current Covid context, the Church of England this year has been working on a new theme

– “*Comfort and Joy*”.

Comfort and Joy holds together the hope that Christmas will bring joy and celebration after a uniquely difficult year with an acknowledgement that – for those who have lost loved ones or livelihoods, or who are potentially still not able to be together with loved ones – not everyone will be ready to join in jubilation. St Paul wrote in Romans 12.15, ‘Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep’. This Christmas many of us may want to join in the celebration of this time of the year but may not be physically able or emotionally ready to do so. We hope that **Comfort and Joy** will enable us to reconnect with the rich and joyous traditions of the past and to offer God’s consoling love in the present.

As is the pattern of 2020 living under the shadow of Covid, many things we traditionally do will be reimaged to make it possible to share in some comfort and joy – so we are offering new ways to gather across the Stour Downs Parish this Advent and Christmas and find **Comfort and Joy**. We invite you to “*Come to the Crib*” on Christmas Eve, to sing carols at home with a service recorded in our Parish Churches, to share the comfort and joy of creating and bringing along a home-made Christingle, to gather in our buildings and online to find comfort and joy in the Christmas message...

Do have a look at what is on offer across the Stour Downs Parish churches this Advent and Christmas, and I hope you can find **Comfort and Joy** this Advent and Christmas in whatever challenges present themselves, remembering that at the heart of the story that offers comfort and joy is *God with Us* – in the messiness of a stable and a world affected by a pandemic.

With blessings, *Chris*

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who have contributed to the resources that the Stour Downs Parish has available to provide gifts of essential food and household items for those who find themselves in need during this challenging time.

Families we have supported in the past months have been very grateful.

If you or someone you know might find a parcel helpful, please get in touch with Rev Chris -

parishpriest@stourdowns.org.uk or 01303 470 791, or send a message via the Stour Downs Parish Facebook page.

Donations of long-life food, health & beauty products or household items can be left in the Rectory porch in Church Road, Smeeth (TN2 6SA) or contact parishpriest@stourdowns.org.uk or 01303 470 791.

Comfort
and Joy



ADVENT SERVICES

Please note, services may have to be revised in light of possible changes in Government Covid-19 rest

Advent 3 (2nd Sunday of December)

Sunday 13 th	9.30am	Mersham	Advent Parish Communion	<i>Also Facebook & phone</i>
	11am	Smeeth	Story, Song & Celebrate	
	11am	Brabourne	Communion	
	6pm	Stowting	Evening Communion	

Advent 4 (3rd Sunday of December)

Sunday 20 th	9.30am	Smeeth	Advent Parish Communion	<i>Also Facebook & phone Be part of the (socially-distanced) nativity story Pre-Recorded video Posted to Parish YouTube and Facebook Page Pre-Recorded video Posted to Parish YouTube and Facebook Page</i>
	11am	Stowting	Story, Song & Celebrate	
	3pm	Online	Sellindge's Noisy Nativity	
	3pm	Online	Nine Lessons & Carols Watch online & sing Along at home	
Weds 23 rd	10am & 6pm	Mersham	Bringing light to loss	<i>To help with feelings of loss at Christmas time</i>
Christmas Eve	2pm to 4pm	Mersham	"Come to the Crib"	<i>Visit the Crib on Christmas Eve– listen to carols playing and take home some Comfort and Joy. Pre-Recorded video Posted to Parish YouTube and Facebook Page</i>
	2pm to 6pm	Smeeth		
	3pm to 4pm	Stowting		
	5pm	Online	Online Christmas Eve "Carols and Candles"- Light a candle at home and sing carols.	
	11.30pm	Mersham	Parish Midnight Communion	<i>Also Facebook & phone</i>
Christmas Day	9.30am	Brabourne	Parish Christmas Day Communion	<i>To be posted on our Facebook Page by 11am/ available live by phone</i>
Sunday 27 th	9.30am	Mersham	Parish Communion	<i>Also Facebook & phone Posted on Facebook</i>
	3pm	Online	Sellindge Party Church	
	6pm	Monks Horton	Evening Communion	

Online live (and recorded for viewing later) at <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 page.

If we can be of help in this difficult time, including providing a parcel of grocery essentials if you are struggling, Please contact Di Dawson on **01303 813 398** cirrus.five@yahoo.co.uk or The Rectory on **01303 470 791**