

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Edition 677



SELLINDGE CO-OP

We held the draw for the raffle, funds raised to the Mental Health Charity MIND. A 'BIG THANK YOU' to – Silver Coin Gift Co – DS121 Fitness – Hobbs and Hearts – Potten Farm Shop – Naughty but Nice Sweets – Crystal Resin – Joanne Paterson – Sellindge Sports and Social Club and Nick Taylor for the amazing donations for our raffle.

We raised a total of £385 for the Mental Health Charity MIND.

The planning application for the shop re-fit is still on-going, there is also a separate planning application for the new shop signage, and we will keep you informed how things are going. Thank you to the vast majority of our customers, who are wearing face masks while in the store, we really appreciate this. Thank you for everyone's support.



SELLINDGE VILLAGE HALL

Good news the Village hall is reopening on 1st September.

The capacity of our halls has been reduced to accommodate social distancing and the government ruling of a maximum of 30 people.

Anyone wishing to make a booking should either ring 01303 813 250 or email sellindgevillagehall@gmail.com to discuss their requirements.



Looking to get fit after lockdown? – Sellindge Tennis Club offer the following group coaching sessions with an experienced LTA, Level 4 coach, Mike Bruce:

Junior tennis coaching – Saturday afternoons for all ages and abilities. From age 5 years up to 14 years old. Prices start at £5.00 an hour dependent on the number in the group.

Rusty Racquets Ladies sessions –

For those who'd like to get back into the game even if you last played when you were at school!

Ladies experienced players session – Thursdays at 8.45 am.

121 coaching

Racquets can be provided. Call or text Caroline Crumley on 07816 062 205 for more info.

For more information on the club – go to www.sellindgetennisclub.co.uk

POPPIES



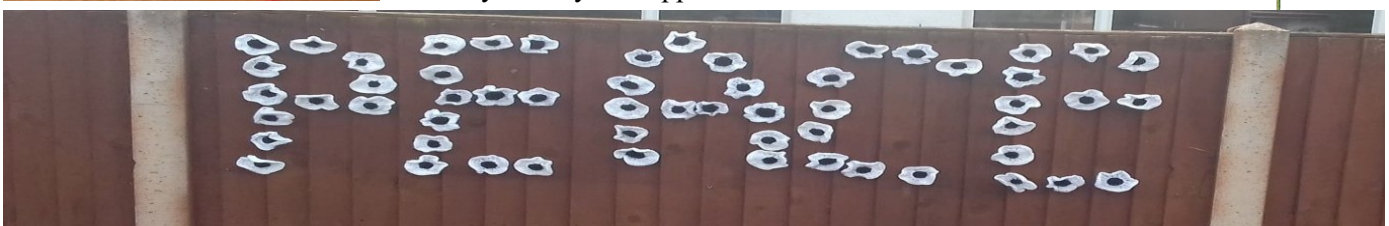
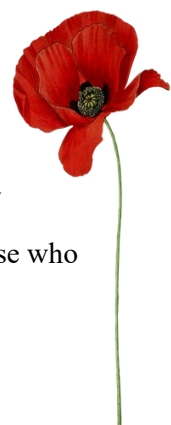
We are hoping to add more of your homemade poppies to the Poppy Display, we started last year, if you would like to contribute Crocheted / Knitted poppies to the display, please leave in the box in the Village Hall foyer on a Tuesday or Friday.

Thank you to everyone who contributed last year and also to those who have already contributed to this year's display.

We are hoping to add to the display year on year.

The cut-off date for the poppies will be the 15th of October

Thank you for your support.



So, here we are at the beginning of the Autumn season, where did the summer go? Covid-19 does have a lot to answer too for keeping us from enjoying friends and family during the summer months, but back to business, the Parish Council report.

Your Parish Council had an in-person meeting in August, and this was to 'sign off' the end of year accounts before it was sent for audit.

Normally the audit has to be completed by 31st July, but under the Emergency Covid-19 Regulations it was extended to 31st August; the Accounts should be on the website by now.

We were able to use the Main Hall, so Members were able to be the 2 metres apart, with face coverings and the one-way system for in and out worked well.

Any in person meetings that may need to take place in the future, and while Covid-19 is still around there will be a restriction on the number of the people that can attend, so please do not be offended when you read the agenda asking for you to contact the Clerk, we have to monitor the number of people in the Village Hall, this is not to prevent public attending.

Although I am back in the Parish Council Office there has been no indication from Kent Association of Local Councils about when we should open for members of the public, however, if you need to come to the office for any reason during the opening times I am happy to chat with you – socially distanced etc. or through the window – and will help if I can.

Dog poo bags are still available from Nigel in Moostock Lane, he puts them a patio chair outside his house, as does the Chairman. He places on the wall at the end of the garden if you phone him on his mobile. These can also be collected from the office.

Around this time, I start asking if there any projects that you the residents would like to see the Parish Council consider for the coming year; your Parish Council has to begin their budgeting for the coming year, so if you have any suggestions or an idea, do let me or one of the Parish Councillors know so that we can consider any costs that may be needed while preparing the budget.

You may have noted that the bus shelter in the layby outside of the Church is still damaged; after investigation it was considered to beyond repair what with wood rot in timbers, so it is being replaced. We are waiting for the Insurance company and the other hoops we have to jump through to get the new one in place. During the investigations it was decided that the replacement shelter will match the one at the bottom of Swan Lane / A20 that was purchased some while. Hopefully work will start soon.

Your Parish Council has two vacancies since the resignation of Chris Mason and Ron Yates, so if you are interested in joining or would like to have more details about the role do contact me at the Parish Council Office either by phone or email, I should be able to answer your questions.

Your Parish Councillors continues to receive information electronically, planning applications are still being commented on, so you should feel confident that the work of your Parish Council continues.

From Your Parish Council 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.



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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've received many representations from residents concerned about planning application 20/0952/FH for Maison Dieu, Stone Hill and Jenny has ensured that should the officers recommend approval it will go to the Planning Committee so that the decision can be made by the Councillors after seeing the case presented and giving those involved the opportunity to put their case. You can see the plans and comments on the District Council website. Most District Council business is now online and the pandemic has underlined the benefit of being able to be in contact without needing to be face to face. In line with this trend, your District Council has introduced 'my account' on its website so that residents can see information directly relevant to them and not have to search through the whole website. 'My account' shows which bin collections are made and when to your property, who your elected representatives are and information on your council tax bill. 'My account' is designed to be 'mobile friendly' and more services will be added to it. You need an email address to sign up to 'my account' and information from your council tax bill to access the full range of services. It takes just a few moments to register and should make it easier for you to find information and report problems. Do give it a try.

We've reported before about how our District Council meetings have moved online. We've had Cabinet, Planning and Overview & Scrutiny meetings by zoom and now on 16 September we will be holding a Full Council meeting to consider the *Places and Policies Local Plan*. Without such a plan our District is open to development taking place anywhere and, whilst people sometimes complain there is too much development, there would be far more and in far worse places without these Council Policies. The Government currently has two consultations under way about changes to the way areas are designated as suitable for development but in the meantime we need the *Places and Policies Local Plan*. If you are interested, you can view the papers for the meeting on the District Council website and the meeting itself is webcast live.

The District Council continues to face many problems from the visitors who have flocked to our coast to enjoy the summer weather. Working with Kent Police we've been trying to make sure that people can enjoy our beautiful area whilst respecting the need for social distancing. We're not helped by people who use our beaches for large events without permission as happened in Greatstone on 08 August. The District Council will seek to prosecute the event organiser, recover the costs of the clean-up needed and prevent a recurrence. It was, however, heartening that over 60 volunteers were out on the beach the day after it was trashed to help clear it of rubbish.

Finally we are sad to report the death of Robert Bliss who became leader of the District Council at what was probably its lowest point in 2004 when the previous short-lived administration had left the District Council finances and services in a ruinous state. Robert led the District Council with courage, good humour and shrewdness.

Our District owes a great deal to Robert and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee

SELLINDGE SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB –

Although the Club is completely closed with no clubs or groups meeting at the moment.

From July 4th the Bar and Kitchen opened, with all the new Covid-19 guidelines in place, with Social Distances, so space is limited so please phone to book a table for food or drinks to be able to sit inside. We would hate to disappoint with the new opening times →

We have new Bar Menus for eating in or outside in our new outside eating area.

We are still offering the Delivery 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

Friday Evening delivering between 4pm and 8pm

Thursday opening time has gone back to 3pm to 9pm



Sellindge
SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

OPENING HOURS

Monday:	3pm - 7pm
Tuesday:	3pm - 7pm
Wednesday:	3pm - 7pm
Thursday:	12pm - 9pm
Friday:	12pm - 9pm
Saturday:	12pm - 9pm
Sunday:	12pm - 6pm

69 SWAN LANE | TN25 6HB | ASHFORD | KENT
TEL: 01303 812437

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

Like many other organisations Kent County Council has been affected by the pandemic and we face a budget shortfall of £20 million from extra costs and lost income. The Government has provided additional funding but not enough. In addition the long-standing problem of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children has now finally overwhelmed KCC's capacity in social workers, foster carers, accommodation and funding. The Government has said Kent should be caring for no more than 231 UASC. Since the beginning of this year over 400 UASCs have entered our care taking the total of UASC in Kent to 589 under 18-year olds. There are also 940 UASC care leavers for whom we still have financial responsibility until they are 25. We have told the Government we can accept no more UASC.

We are continuing to care for the UASC already with us and normal services will continue for Kent children.

We will be holding a special budget meeting in September to make the savings we need to match our income to expenditure. I hope you took the opportunity to respond to our consultation on this difficult decision.

Work is already under way on the budget for 2021/22 which we expect to be even more challenging.

Last month I reported on the work which I am leading on Net Zero for both KCC and Kent as a whole. One of the next steps in this is the launch of *Solar Together* which aims to make solar panels more affordable for homes, business and community buildings in Kent. Prices on solar panels have been steadily dropping but the initial cost has been a barrier to more people taking advantage of the reductions in energy bills that solar panels provide. We are inviting people to register their interest and, using our collective buying power, we will hold a reverse auction to get the best price for the panels. Only when the price is known will you need to make a commitment to go ahead or not.

For more information, visit www.solartogether.co.uk/Kent

There are also 20 electric vans available for Kent businesses to borrow (for free) for two months at a time to evaluate how they could make the switch to electric and an offer to Parish Councils to install EV charging points. There's also more to come soon on planting trees and our pollinator action plan (Plan Bee).

As ever, see the website for more information or contact me.

It's been a while since I last reported on potholes but work on road repairs has continued without interruption throughout the pandemic. Do keep reporting any potholes you see and any blocked drains so they can be cleared before the winter rains. This year 2,960 potholes have been filled and 56,724 sqm of road have been patched. A new 'retread' technique has also been successfully trialled for rural roads. It involves planing the old road surface and breaking it up, with the broken material levelled out to form the new road base. A fresh bitumen emulsion is mixed into the broken material to bind it and the road mix is compacted and sealed to provide a new, levelled and pothole-free surface. Good example of how innovation and recycling can save money and help us resurface more rural roads. Next month I hope to report on a project with your Parish Council, to replace the damaged bus shelter near St Mary's Church.

Susan Carey – Member for Elham Valley Ward, Kent County Council

SELLINDGE U13's FOOTBALL TEAM

We currently have players from Sellindge, Smeeth, Ashford and Folkestone, so if you know of a player who is not getting a regular game with their current team then tell them about us, we have the coaches (FA trained and all DBS checked), we have the ground (and social club servicing tea, coffee and bacon sarnies), we have the funding for new goals (thanks to a FA grant) and now a new kit (thanks again Taylor Wimpey) - we just need more players!

The Saturday team have some fixtures –

Saturday September 5th Sellindge under 13 v Hythe Town Youth under 13 Colts – Home game – Kick Off 10am

Saturday September 12th Sellindge under 13 v Park Farm Rangers under 13 Colts – Home game – Kick Off 10am

Sat Sept 26th Biddenden Juniors u13 v Sellindge u13 – Away game, Gordon Jones playing fields TN27 8BB – K Off 10am

SELLINDGE FC SATURDAY TEAM

Sellindge FC Saturday team are a newly formed adult team, we are looking at strengthening our squad for the forthcoming season in the Ashford Saturday League. All new players from age of 16 and up are welcome, or if you know of anyone interested in playing Saturdays let them know. The team is currently training on a Sunday morning at the Sellindge Sports and Social Club to meet the team and take part in one of our training sessions.



THE STOUR DOWNS PARISH – St MARY’S SELLINDGE

Recently I took some time out for a mini-retreat, spending a morning each day with some well-known Gospel stories and trying to imagine being there, inhabiting the sights, sounds, smells. A theme that I noticed in these stories was that each episode sees Jesus seeking a place to withdraw – to go to a “deserted place”.

With all the uncertainty, changing rules and guidance, and the difficulties of the past months, the urge to withdraw to a deserted place- or get away to a sunny beach perhaps- might be something many of us long for. We might perhaps look back on the experience of lockdown as feeling like we were in a deserted place.

For some this might have felt like a blessing, a time when you could withdraw into a quieter space and reconnect with the natural world perhaps, hearing the birds and noticing the growth of spring and summer. For others this was not such a good thing, like those disciples who found they needed to provide food for 5000+ people in a deserted place, or a problem: perhaps you felt alone, missing loved ones, friends and routines, and having what and who we need around us.

And as we continue to try and return to some kind of a normality, leaving the “deserted place” of lockdown might equally be a struggle to adjust from the change of pace and peace of the deserted place, or perhaps a return to normality means getting back on your feet and is a pressing need.

As we head into September with the worries about a second wave and what autumn and winter ahead might bring for us to contend with, I pray that you can hold on to the peace of the “deserted place”. We might also discover, with our senses perhaps returned from the experience of noticing more the world around us during lockdown, new joys ahead as the seasons change.

God bless,
Chris

Services in the Stour Downs for September

September 6 th	9:30am	Smeeth	Parish Communion
	11am	Brabourne	<i>Story, Song and Celebrate</i>
	3pm	Online	Party Church
September 13 th	9:30am	Mersham	Parish Communion
	11am	Smeeth	<i>Story, Song and Celebrate</i>
	11am	Brabourne	Communion with Baptism
	6pm	Stowting	Evening Communion
September 20 th	9:30am	Smeeth	Parish Communion
	11am	Stowting	<i>Story, Song and Celebrate</i>
	3pm	Mersham	Mersham Munchies
	6pm	Brabourne	Evening Communion
September 27 th	9:30am	Mersham	Parish Communion
	11am	Sellindge	Community Harvest Service
	3pm	Monks Horton	Parish Harvest Thanksgiving

Please note, these planned services may be subject to change in light of reviewed risk assessments or guidance. Please see our website www.stourdowns.org.uk or our Stour Downs Facebook Page for details.

The churches of St Mary’s Brabourne, St Peter’s Monks Horton and St Mary’s Smeeth are open in the daytime as a place for quiet individual reflection and prayer.

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**



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