

# SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2021

Edition 682



Hello All. My name is Naomi and I am one of the staff at the store here in Sellindge.

I would just like to thank everyone for their continued support when visiting the shop and keeping high spirits wherever possible.

I would like to remind everyone that with the current regulations, it is important that everyone remembers that a face mask must be worn at all times within the store.

If there are customers without one then please resist the urge to comment on it. Not all medical conditions are visible and we need to work together on tackling this virus.

Throughout the shop we would appreciate if everyone became more aware of our shops capacity. We cannot hold more than 7 customers in our store for them to safely socially distance, so please keep this in mind when entering the store. If you can see that the shops is slightly full, and then please take a moment to start a queue outside the shop until a few customers leave. This takes a massive pressure off of our shoulders when serving and working.

We thank you all for your patience with the stores planned refit. We understand that the shop is not in perfect shape but are working hard to make it accessible for all of our customers.

Thank you all so much ! Naomi

### CENSUS 2021

#### **Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society**

Households across Folkestone and Hythe District will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021.

The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be the first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets.

“A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,” Iain Bell, deputy national statistician at the Office for National Statistics, said.

“This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device, with help and paper questionnaires for those that need them.”

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from early March.

The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

For more information, visit [www.census.gov.uk](http://www.census.gov.uk) Leigh Poppy - Census Engagement Manager for South East Kent

*It will be interesting to see to see the 2021 census at the end of the year.*

*The population for Shepway District Council (now Folkestone & Hythe District Council) in the 2001 census was 96,238, by the 2011 census this had increased to 107,969 an increase of 11,731.*

*The population for Sellindge in the 2001 census was 1,356, by the 2011 census this had increased to 1,601 an increase of 245.*



HM Government



# **STAY AT HOME**

- ▶ Only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise or work
- ▶ Work from home unless you are unable to do so
- ▶ Do not travel unless necessary
- ▶ Essential shops will remain open
- ▶ Schools will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. All other children will learn remotely until February half term

**Find the latest guidance and exemptions at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)**

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

### Office opening

Due to the new National 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 who 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.

### 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.



### 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 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 between 2 and 3 pm on 01303 813 228 to arrange pickup.



Hi all, Following major Lockdown announcement youth football has now been suspended until further notice. Hopefully we'll be back soon. Take care and stay safe.

### SELLINDGE SPORTS and SOCIAL CLUB

Due to the current Covid-19 Lockdown restrictions, the Sports and Social Club are completely closed, with no clubs or groups being held.

We will however run our hot food delivery service on Fridays 4pm to 8pm 07876 794 323 – 01303 812 437  
Please let any elderly neighbours who would be interested in hot food but may not be on facebook aware

## Sellindge

SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

### Takeaway Menu

FRIDAY - 4PM - 8PM

#### FRIDAY

Fish and Chips	£7.00
Scampi and Chips	£6.50
Sausage and Chips	£5.00
Add batter for 50p	
Cheeseburger and Chips	£5.50
Chicken Bites and Chips	£5.00
Pukka Pie and Chips (Chicken or Steak)	£6.00
Chicken Nugget Sharing Platter	£7.00
Halloumi Burger and Chips	£6.50
Vegetarian Burger and Chips	£5.50
Chicken Tikka Pitta and Chips	£6.00
Chicken and Chorizo Paella and Prawns	£6.00
Bottles of Wine	£10.00
Cans Of Beer	£1.50
Soft Drinks	£1.50



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

[Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) 01303 812 066 [susan.carey@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:susan.carey@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) 01303 670 561

**Covid Vaccinations** – We're delighted that two buildings owned by your District Council are to be used for vaccinations. The car park at Civic Centre in Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone is now a drive through vaccination centre and, as we write, work is under way to prepare Folca (the former Debenhams building in Sandgate Road, Folkestone) as a main centre. Lydd airport will also be used for vaccinations. Oaklands Health Centre in Hythe will continue to administer vaccinations for those registered with the following surgeries – Sun Lane, White House, Hawkinge and Elham, Folkestone, New Lyminge, and the Folkestone and the Oaklands Health Centres. The Musgrove Park Medical Centre in Ashford is dealing with vaccinations for those registered with the Sellindge Surgery.

**Please do not turn up on site or ring the site** as you may hamper the vaccination effort.

You will not get a vaccination without an invitation. For more information about vaccinations, see [www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine](http://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk/covid19vaccine)

Ideas are being invited for the work programme of the District Council's Scrutiny Committee.

There's some guidance on the website about what can and can't be covered and you can ask for a form to submit your topic at [committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

The District Council has been distributing grants and loans to businesses from the funding we've been allocated by the Government to deal with the impact of lockdown. The turnaround on getting grants to eligible businesses has been remarkably swift and it's well worth checking if your business can be helped. £75,000 of funding has also been allocated to our District to help individuals who are facing hardship. This funding has been going out since before Christmas with the District Council working with local organisations, including Citizens Advice, food banks and the community support hubs, to contact those most in need, to help them pay utility bills or buy food. If you wish to apply or nominate someone then you can do so via the website or through one of us.

We are proud of the way our staff has continued to keep services going despite illness and bereavement. Many of them had no break over Christmas as they were dealing with both the disruption caused by the closure of the border by France and the aftermath of litter left by the delayed HGV drivers. We'd also like to thank the volunteers who have helped with the clear up.

We thought you would also be interested to learn that in the first full week of operation, the specialist contractors working for KCC clamped 195 illegally parked HGVs with many more given verbal warnings to move at the end of their permitted 45-minute break period. It's hoped these numbers will fall as word spreads about the new enforcement powers.

Please continue to follow the letter and the spirit of the Government guidelines to help reduce the spread of Covid as we wait for the vaccine to protect us all.

Susan Carey and Jenny Hollingsbee your District Councillors



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

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

Covid continues to dominate our lives and KCC is involved in many of the initiatives to combat the pandemic including a local test and trace system, testing for Covid for those without symptoms and ensuring as many of our services as possible continue despite the increasing challenge of staff sickness and self-isolating. Covid rates and transmission in Kent remain high so despite the good news about the vaccines the need for measures to limit transmission also remains high. Nothing brings this home more than the news that on 30 December KCC was asked to put in place a temporary mortuary for the rising number of bodies. Our plans for this had been made in April and this temporary storage in Aylesford with space for up to 825 is now operating 24 hours a day.

If you need to be out and about for your work then it's a good idea to have a regular test to make sure you aren't inadvertently spreading Covid as 1 in 3 of those who have Covid show no symptoms. KCC has now set up several testing sites for those without symptoms including Folkestone Library in Grace Hill, the Community Centre in Hawkinge, the Ashford North Youth Centre and at Eurogate Business Park in Ashford.

You do need to book in advance not just turn up, but there's plenty of capacity and you will get your result within a couple of hours. You can see all 22 sites and book online at [www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest](http://www.kent.gov.uk/symptomfreetest)

The NHS is dealing with tests for those who have symptoms of Covid at [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)

The NHS is also in the lead in dealing with the vaccination programme (see the District Council report).

The work done to prepare for a No Deal Brexit was needed instead for the border closure by France just before Christmas. The Covid testing that the French authorities now require was set up in double quick time at both Manston and Sevington and 0.02% of HGV drivers tested positive. Over 14,000 Covid tests were administered between 23 and 25 December and 24,000 meals provided. Once the border reopened and Dover was unjammed, the backlog cleared quickly leaving a mountain of litter on our roads which is now being cleared. HGVs are now also required to have a Kent Access Permit to cross the border (rather more notice was given about this) and the new system appears to be working well.

The Kent Resilience Forum continues to co-ordinate work across the public sector – Kent Highways, Kent Police, Highways England etc. and I know many KCC staff have worked exceptionally hard over the Christmas and New Year period to deal with both the crisis caused by the border closure and its fall out.

Illegal parking by HGVs on our country roads has long caused damage to our verges and disruption to nearby homes as well as leaving some disgusting litter in its wake. The Government has now granted KCC powers to clamp and fine HGVs and KCC is using a specialist contractor for enforcement.

KCC distributed vouchers to families with children eligible for Free School Meals for the Christmas holiday period and KentTogether continues to offer help for those in need. [kent.gov.uk/kenttogether](http://kent.gov.uk/kenttogether) or [03000 41 92 92](tel:03000419292) (this is a [24/7](#) service).

For news in between these monthly reports I now have a Facebook page called **The Elham Valley** which I keep updated with information which is often only released at short notice such as roadworks. You can also find me on twitter [@susanjcarey](https://twitter.com/susanjcarey)

Susan Carey, Member for Elham Valley, Kent County Council

### **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

As we move into the second month of the year, we leave behind the season of Christmas which runs from Advent to Epiphany, celebrating in the life of the church the feast of Candlemas at the start of February, and then journeying to Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent.

Before we get to pancakes on Shrove Tuesday - which falls just after Valentines Day this year- this month begins with a festival of light. The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. In pre-Christian times, Candlemas was an ancient festival which marked the midpoint of winter, half way between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. On Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home. In this lockdown, we perhaps would welcome seeing candles lit in our neighbour's windows to feel some kind of connection with those who we miss, and to see a symbol of light in the darkness.

This mid-point of winter, between the shortest day and the spring equinox, reminds us that there is other light around – and we might have spotted some on our daily walks to stave off Lockdown boredom and get some fresh air... Have you seen signs of spring coming? Have you seen snowdrops or bulbs appearing?

In this hard winter, with so much wintry gloom – not just the weather, but the gloom of uncertainty, the grim death toll and the ongoing lockdown – this might be a time more than ever when we are eager to look ahead to signs of new things, of the joys of spring, of better times.

Looking ahead- what might appear on the horizon to give you hope, bring brighter times...? Perhaps it is looking ahead to the vaccine and hope of the end of restrictions, perhaps children going back to school, perhaps just better weather...?

For Christians, Jesus is the symbol of light that gives hope and strength in times of darkness. As the Christian year journeys this month from the story of the Christ child to that of the man who will go to the Cross, I invite you to you might find, the light and hope of the Christ child, the one who will journey to the Cross for you?

Stay safe and take care of yourself and those around you,

Blessings

*Rev Chris*

We continue with online worship during lockdown via Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/Stour-Downs-Parish-275026813134319>) or

by phone on Sundays at 9:30am (dial: 0333 0110 945 Room number: 15371271# PIN: 1030#).

The churches in Brabourne, Smeeth and Stowting are open daily for prayer and reflection.

Morning and Evening Prayer are on Facebook at 9:15am and 6:15pm Monday-Friday, and Sunday worship on Facebook is 9:30am. Look out for Party Church on the first Sunday posted on Facebook at 3pm.

Contact Rev Chris at [vicar@stourdowns.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stourdowns.org.uk) or 01303 470791

Please get in touch if you or someone that you know would benefit from a parcel of essentials, or if you need some support in this challenging time. Donations of long-life food products can be left in the porch of the Rectory in Church Road, Smeeth (TN25 6SA) or in the box outside Sellindge Primary School.

