

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

APRIL 2022

Edition 696



SELLINDGE TENNIS CLUB



After all the improvements made over the last year our

village Tennis club was awarded Club of the Year 2021 at the LTA annual awards night on 5 March. We are now to represent Kent at the Regional awards. We'll, of course, keep you posted.

We are delighted to be recognised as Club of the Year as it acknowledges perfectly the team effort and hard work involved in realising our club's journey of transformation over the last year. Huge congratulations also goes to Nick Skelton, Level 5 coach who was highly commended on the night in the category of Development coach.

The Club of the Year award thanks the Club captains, league players, coaching team, committee members, fundraiser/events volunteers and all our tennis club members for everyone's support over the last year.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for helping us put Sellindge Tennis Club back on the map!



Evolution Power's proposal to develop a renewable energy generating project on land at Aldington near Ashford.

Evolution Power has published its Statement of Community Consultation for the project, which can be viewed on the project

website: www.stonestreetgreensolar.co.uk/Consultation

Also on the website is a copy of an information leaflet that is being sent to local residents.

Evolution Power has also confirmed its first round of local information events which are as follows;

- Sellindge Village Hall – Friday 8 April, 3pm – 7pm Aldington Village Hall – Saturday 9 April, 11am – 3pm
- Bilsington Village Hall – Tuesday 12 April, 1pm – 5pm Mersham Sports Club – Wednesday 13 April, 2pm – 6pm



Kent Association for the Blind

Kent Association of the Blind is bringing their Mobile Eye Health Bus, IRIS, to our district in April, offering free eye advice to our residents.

Please can you share this opportunity with your local community.

Mon 4th April – Hythe (Mount Street car park - old Aldi car park)

Tues 5th April – New Romney (Church Road car park)

Wednesday 6th April – Folkestone Precinct (near Lloyds Bank) Monday 11th April – Lydd (The Rype)

Tuesday 12th April – Folkestone Nepalese Community Centre

Wednesday 13th April – Hawkinge Community Centre

Further information is here: <https://www.kab.org.uk/get-support/help-advice/iris-mobile-sight-centre/>

INDOOR TABLE TOP SALES At Sellindge Village Hall 9am to 1pm.

Indoor table top sale Saturday 2nd April 9am to 1pm many stalls already booked a mix between household stalls and different crafts. Tables are £6 for a 6 foot table.

Refreshments are available to purchase. Plenty of free parking and entry is free.

Following dates being Saturday 7th May and the first Saturday of each month onwards.

To book for any or for more information contact Jeanette 07753 283 575.

ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY's HOLY WEEK VISIT

It is a great privilege to welcome both Archbishop Justin Welby and The Community of St Anselm to spend time in the Ashford Deanery during Holy Week 2022, from Palm Sunday until Holy Saturday.

The Community of St Anselm (COSA) are a formation community, founded by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2015. Each year young people aged between 20-35 from across the world and different church denominations choose to make a commitment to live together in shared life at Lambeth Palace. At its heart the community is a space for young people to draw closer to Christ through prayer, study and service to others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury and COSA arrive on Palm Sunday, Sunday 10th April 2022, and we will begin this special week with a Palm Sunday service at St Mary's Brabourne led by the Archbishop, with a donkey parade from the Five Bells Pub to St Mary's church. We are looking forward to inviting the Stour Downs Parish to walk with the donkeys to church, recreating, story of Palm Sunday when Jesus was greeted triumphantly by the crowd in Jerusalem.

The week will feature many events when the Archbishop and COSA will be marking Holy Week and joining in with the life of the Parishes in the Ashford Deanery, with the theme of the week being "sharing our story". The Archbishop is keen to hear individual stories and share the story of what this week means to Christians, as well as encourage the church here to share the story of our faith.

Amongst the events planned in the Stour Downs Parish, there will be opportunity for Q&A with the Archbishop at The Woolpack Pub in Smeeth on Monday 11th April from 7pm; an innovative and thought-provoking reflection through art and music on the last 24 hours of Jesus life at St Mary's Sellindge on Maundy Thursday (14th) at 3pm with the Archbishop, and open to explore on Good Friday, Saturday 16th and Bank Holiday Monday 10am-4pm; a Maundy Thursday Supper at Stowting School hall at 5pm; a Walk of Witness from St Mary's Sellindge followed by Hot Cross Buns at the Village Hall from 10am-11am on Good Friday; and a holiday club in Sellindge School on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (11th-13th April, 10am-12pm). There will also be a Deanery service at Charing on Maundy Thursday at 7:30pm and a Easter Vigil at St Mary's Ashford from 8pm on 16th April.

Keep an eye on our social media (facebook - Stour Downs Parish; Twitter @DownsStour) and website www.stourdowns.org.uk or email office@stourdowns.org.uk to sign up for our mailing list.

COFFEE & COMPANY

We are open to anyone every Tuesday morning in the Durling Hall from 9am till 1pm.
Serving drinks and there might be cake! Come and meet friends for a chat, make new friends

HI KENT – Reg Charity 1052036 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 the Parish Council Office, behind the Village Hall on Tuesday April 12th from 10.15am to 11.15am.

You could pop into Coffee & Company either before or afterwards – *Just a thought*

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.

ASHFORD STOMA SUPPORT GROUP

Ashford Stoma Support Group will be meeting in Sellindge Village Hall, Thursday April 28th.

From 2pm to 4pm. The Group meets on the last Thursday of the month.

SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk 01303 813 271 clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk

The next meeting of your Parish Council is Tuesday 12th April starting at 6.30pm in the Durling Hall

Dog Poo Bags – Dog poo bags are still available from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moorstock Lane, he puts them on 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 260 751.

Also now available from the Dog Poo Bag dispenser which is located at the entrance to the Village Green.

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

Congratulations to Sellindge Tennis Club which won both the Kent LTA small Club of the Year and the overall Kent Club of the Year at the LTA Awards on 05 March. The club has done a tremendous job in expanding membership and encouraging young people to take up tennis and we've been pleased to support the club through both District and County Council grants for the court resurfacing project. Jenny visited the Club to congratulate them on their success. The Great British Spring Clean continues till 10 April and if you would like to join one of the organised community clean ups or go out solo then your District Council can provide equipment and make arrangements to collect the bags. We're fortunate to have many volunteers across our district but more are always welcome.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council has set a budget for 2022/23 with an increase of 1.96%; this equates to an extra 15p a day for a Band D household. We are making use of reserves to balance the budget and there will be no reduction in services. The District Council sends out the council tax bill for all the other precepting authorities (KCC, Kent Fire & Rescue, Kent Police and your local Parish Council) its share of the overall bill is around 13% of the total. The Government's council tax rebate will be made automatically to eligible households that pay council tax by direct debit. Once a solution has been finalised for refunding those whose bank details are not held then those concerned will be contacted – there is no need to make a request to the Council.

We're delighted to report that the Council has been successful in a bid to the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Over the next 12 months two million pounds will be spent on improving energy efficiency in over 100 of our Council managed homes. Those homes most in need of work will be prioritised and tenants will be contacted individually to arrange for the work to be carried out. We hope to be able to use local contractors for this insulation work and boost jobs in the green sector.

Electric Vehicle charging points are now available in most of your District Council's car parks. This is part of a wider scheme which Susan initiated called EV600 which provides 600+ charging points across Kent in partnership with Connected Kerb. If you have an EV, your satnav should automatically add these locations to your map and you can download the Connected Kerb app to use them.

By the time you read this newsletter we will have attended the opening of F51, the new indoor skate park, mountaineering and more centre in Folkestone. We will tell you more next month!

The Government has advice on what you can do to help Ukraine here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukraine-what-you-can-do-to-help>

There are also local efforts under way including:

Lyminge centre of Age UK Hythe & Lyminge – **63 Station Road, Lyminge, CT18 8HQ** Monday to Friday between 10am and 2pm is a collection point (Hythe and New Romney Community Hubs also operating as collection centres.)

Bigjigs Toys, Unit B, Kingsmead, Folkestone, CT19 5EU, is providing space at its warehouse for donations to be made, sorted and loaded onto lorries bound for Eastern Europe. The warehouse is open Monday to Saturday from 9am to 5pm to accept donations. There will be AA signs directing people to the site. The most needed supplies are: nappies, baby wipes, baby food, sanitary products, long-lasting food and drink, warm socks and hats, medicine, toiletries, blankets/bedding.

Volunteers are needed to help sort, label and stack donations and anyone interested is asked to join: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/HvezOoWlmQM0WlEqTVGxgu>

Freight 44 of Lympne is providing the first lorry and covering the cost of the driver's wages, while Bigjigs Toys is funding the rest of the costs (fuel/duty/tolls). If you would like to donate money to pay for as many lorries as are needed, please go here: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/igor-kovalenko-1>

Ukraine Humanitarian Aid, Folkestone, is asking for donations to be dropped off at **Holy Trinity Church, Sandgate Road, Folkestone, CT20 2HQ**, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Items needed are: dry food (rice, pasta, tinned food, especially fish and meat), medicine (Paracetamol, Ibuprofen, painkillers, Calpol, Ibuprofen suspensions for babies and children), protective clothing (helmets, bullet-proof vests, binoculars, long-range radios).

Covid - At the Kent & Medway Health & Wellbeing Board on 16 March that Jenny attended, there was concern over the high number of reported Covid cases in the latest data set. The emphasis was put on vaccination and the need to encourage people who have not yet been vaccinated to come forward. A further booster jab will be available for all over the age of 75 from 21 March and although testing kits are being phased out from the end of March, they will still be available for certain sections of the population.

Jenny also attended the Science event at Sellindge Primary School on 18 March. It was lovely to see all pupils so involved. Well done.

We would like to welcome new residents to the Village and if we can help in any way, please do contact us.

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

Your County Council has responded to the invasion of Ukraine by reviewing our suppliers to make sure none of our contracts is indirectly supporting President Putin's regime. We have removed Gazprom from the suppliers to our energy subsidiary Laser and we are seeking to reduce our Pension Fund investments (0.3% of the total) in Russian assets. We are also preparing for our duties under the Civil Contingencies Act should the situation worsen. In this context it's been encouraging that over 4,000 households have registered an interest in our Solar Together collective buying scheme for solar panels and battery storage. Solar power provides a distributed source of energy and battery storage further improves this resilience. KCC has also continued its investment in solar panels for its own buildings and we are currently investing in two solar parks which together will reduce our carbon emissions by 34% and our energy costs by over £800,000 each and every year. Our largest energy cost remains our network of over 120,000 streetlights which have all been converted to LED (Light-Emitting Diode). (Switching to LEDs is something which everyone can do to help reduce energy use and save money.) KCC's next solar projects will be solar parks on three of our closed landfill sites which will be a very good use of these contaminated areas.

The Chairman of the UK Climate Change Committee, Lord Deben, and his officers visited Kent on 08 March. They had come to learn about KCC's work with partners but we also learnt from them about best practice elsewhere. Among the many partners we met, it was good to see the Kent Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) who do so much excellent work and I'm delighted to report that they have reached the next stage of their bid to win **Cross-Channel UNESCO Global Geopark** status for the Kent Downs AONB with the Parc Naturel Regional des Caps et Marais d'Opale in France.

KCC's transport arrangements for children with Special Educational Needs have had significant problems. Work is under way to put this right and there will be a full investigation. The problem has already been discussed at our KCC Cabinet meeting (03 March), the Scrutiny Meeting (08 March) and Full Council (10 March) and webcasts of these meetings can all be seen on the KCC website www.kent.gov.uk

Thank you to everyone who reported fallen trees and blocked drains to KCC following the storms in February. Kent Highways and contractors had several hundred such incidents to deal with. Please use the highways section of www.kent.gov.uk to report problems or phone 03000 41 81 81 in office hours or 03000 41 91 91 for emergencies outside normal hours. (Anything that's an immediate threat to life should be reported to Kent Police at 999.)

Finally I'd like to remind you that KCC's consultations can be seen on <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/> and my **Plan Tree** strategy is open for comment till 02 May. It's about tree establishment rather than tree planting and if you want to know the difference then do read the consultation.



THE SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Food served from 3pm until close Wednesday to Friday.

Pizza nights Thursday, Fish and Chips, Fridays takeaway and local delivery available.

Open from 9am Saturdays and Sundays serving Breakfast Rolls and full menu, with Sunday Roast on Sundays.

The 2022 membership is now being signed up



FREE JUNIOR TENNIS COACHING

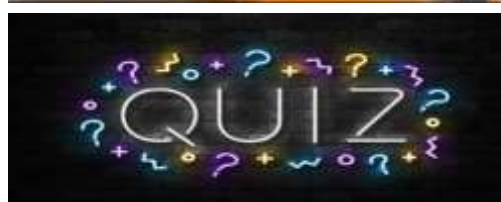
Sellindge Tennis Club - Kent LTA Club of the Year 2021

During the Easter and Summer school holidays

for those primary school children who are eligible for free school meals and have been issued with a Reconnect Voucher.

Contact Nick Skelton - Tennis Coach on 07545 871087 -

www.adtennis.co.uk #openinguptennis #LTA #reconnect



The Tennis club will be hosting another popular quiz night on 11 June. If you'd like to join in the fun at the Sellindge Sports and Social Club from 7.30 pm please book a table by contacting Caroline Crumley by emailing caroline_crumley@mac.com or phone/text on 07816 062205.

ST MARY'S CHURCH SELLINDGE – Part of the Stour Downs Parish.

STOUR DOWNS PARISH Vicar's letter – March 2022

Recently on social media a video went viral. Not surprising videos go viral all the time but this one showed a young girl of around 6 years old singing a song inside a bunker full of people in Ukraine. As she began to sing the general noise and bustle of lots of people in a small space quietened as everyone stopped to listen. At time of writing this video has now been watched more than 14.8 million times on twitter alone. Now even if social media isn't your thing there is a good chance that if you have children or grandchildren of a certain age, you would have recognised the song even sung in Ukrainian. The song is called "Let it Go" from the Disney movie, Frozen. In the movie, the main character, Queen Elsa, has magical powers to freeze all that is around her through her hands and because of the damage it can cause, her parents taught her to hide her magic, not to feel anything and to keep herself cut off from others. In a moment of frustration and in front of hundreds of people, her magic escapes through an ungloved hand and dramatically ices the whole land. She flees to the mountains where she sings the song "Let it Go." This song is an expression of her letting go of all that is holding her back from being and expressing the person she most deeply is. Lent is a time for Christians to let go—to lessen our grip on—all that inhibits our own ability to live the lives that God is calling us to. Letting go is a spiritual practice that can be even more challenging than giving up. It requires courageous honesty with oneself as well as determination, because letting go is not a "one time and it's done" kind of practice. It involves prayer and companionship in the process. It seems to me that when he was tempted in the desert, Jesus was letting go more than giving up. He was letting go of the possibilities put before him of supreme power, self-sufficiency, adulation and wealth. Letting go is about not grasping, not holding onto. It is about prising open our fist. I wonder what it is that we might want to or need to let go of. What is it that you are grasping tightly that is actually inhibiting who you are?

As we approach Easter this year, it is a time to think about new life and the new creation that Jesus created for us all on the cross. So, what might be "new life" for you by letting go of something inhibiting you, or what is it that you might seek to find new life in taking up something new?

With blessings,

Rev Chris and Rev Susan

APRIL SERVICES

3rd April	Smeech Brabourne	9:30am Communion <i>and Live-Stream on Facebook</i> 10am Story and Praise	
10 th April Palm Sunday	Brabourne Mersham Church Room	9:30am Communion <i>With Donkey Parade to the church led by Archbishop Justin Welby</i> 4pm JAM (Jesus and Me)	
17 th April Easter Sunday	Sellindge Smeech Mersham Brabourne Stowting Monks Horton	8.30am Said Communion 9.30am Communion 9.30am Communion 11.00am Communion 11.00am Communion 4pm Easter Evensong	
24 th April	Stowting Smeech Stowting Monks Horton	9.30am 9.30am 10.30am 4pm	Communion Morning Praise and live stream on facebook Story, Song & Celebrate Evensong

Services on other days

Wednesdays April 13th, 20th, 27th 9.30pm Brabourne Mid week Coffee and Communion

Good Friday April 15th 10.00am Sellindge Walk of Witness

3.00pm Smeech An hour at the Cross

Holy Week in the Stour Downs Parish 2022

Sunday 10 th April	Monday 11 th April	Tuesday 12 th April	Wednesday 13 th April	Thursday 14 th April	Friday 15 th April Good Friday	Saturday 16 th April	Easter Sunday 17 th April	Monday 18 th April (Bank Holiday)
9:30am Palm Sunday service at St Mary's Brabourne	9:15-9:45 Morning Prayer at Messham 10am-12pm Holiday Activity Club at Sellindge	10am-12pm Holiday Activity Club at Sellindge	9:30am Midweek Communion at Brabourne 10:00am-12pm Holiday Activity Club at Sellindge	3:00pm - 4:30pm A reflection through art on the last 24 hours of Jesus life at St Mary's Sellindge	10:00am - 11:00am Walk Of Witness Followed by Hot Cross Buns Sellindge - from St Mary's to village hall 10am-4pm 24 hours art exhibition open at St Mary's Sellindge	10am-11:30am Easter Egg Hunt Messham 10am-4pm 24 hours art exhibition open at St Mary's Sellindge	8:30am Sellindge 9:30 Messham 9:30 Smeeth 11:00 Brabourne 11:00 Stowting 4pm Easter Evensong Monks Horton	10am-4pm 24 hours art exhibition open at St Mary's Sellindge
5:15pm Evening Prayer at Smeeth 6pm-7pm "Sharing Our Story" at Woolpack Smeeth Q&A with the Archbishop over a drink	5pm Evening Prayer at Brabourne	5pm Evening Prayer at Brabourne	5pm Evening Prayer at Stowting	5pm-6:30pm Maundy Thursday Supper buffet at Stowting School 7:00pm - 8:30pm Maundy Thursday Service (Deanery event) At CHARING Church	2pm-3pm An Hour at The Cross Smeeth 5pm Evening Prayer at Brabourne	5pm Evening Prayer at Monks Horton 7pm-8:30am time St Mary's Ashford Easter vigil service (Deanery event)		

Key:

Archbishop present

Deanery service