

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS



February 2025

Edition 730

Scarlet Hazelton – Hello All. On behalf of the Sellindge Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and ahead of our upcoming Sellindge Neighbourhood Plan Priorities and visioning event, details below, we would really appreciate anyone who takes the time to answer this questionnaire. Many thanks in advance.

<https://forms.gle/hrQSAopM1dPXTqKb8>

Coffee & Company

*At Sellindge Village
Hall*

Every Tuesday 9-1pm

*All are Welcome to call
in for a friendly chat
and a cuppa*



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.

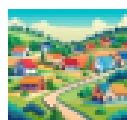
The local hearing aid maintenance clinic will be in Coffee & Company in the Durling Hall, Sellindge Village Hall on–

February 11th

from 10.15am to 11.15am.

Hi Kent at Coffee & Company every
2nd Tuesday monthly.

2025 dates – **March 11th – April 8th –
May 13th – June 10th – July 8th –
August 12th – September 9th –
October 14th – November 11th –
December 9th**



SELLINDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN MEETING

Priorities and Visioning event

**10am – 12.30pm Saturday 15TH FEBRUARY
SELLINDGE VILLAGE HALL**

**COME ALONG AND JOIN US TO DISCUSS THE
VISION AND OBJECTIVES FOR OUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:**

**ENVIRONMENT
DESIGN
COMMUNITY FACILITIES
TRANSPORT
ECONOMY
HOUSING**



LAUNCHED !!! www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk

Church Services at St Mary's Church Sellindge, now every 2nd Sunday of the month at 11am.

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

The next meeting of your Parish Council is **Tuesday February 11th** starting at 6.30pm in the Durling Hall.



From your Parish Council Clerk Linda Hedley
Dog Poo Bags – Dog poo bags are still available from the Parish Council Office on Tuesday mornings or Friday afternoon.

Also from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moorstock Lane, he puts them on a table next to a patio chair outside his house, Also available from Dog Poo Bag dispenser located at the Main Village Green Entrance.

MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR FEBRUARY 2025

www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries

Email ashfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk Tel 03000 41 31 31

Lay By on A20 at the bottom of Swan Lane.

Thursdays – 9.15am to 9.45am on **Feb 13th & 27th**

St Kathrines Cresent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.20pm on **Feb 14th & 28th**



Kent Libraries

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

I was very sorry to hear about the recent death of Cllr Stanley Bull. Stan gave great service to his community and was a stalwart Parish Councillor, chairing the council through some difficult times. He was also a kind man and will be missed not least by me.

It looks set to be a year of great change for all the current District Councils, Kent County Council and Medway Council. On 16 December the Government published a White Paper announcing new Unitary Councils and Mayoral Strategic Authorities (MSAs). The choice we face in Kent is either to opt for the Devolution Priority Programme (DPP) with the incentive of more devolved powers and funding for transport, skills and support for business or to go through the same process slightly later with a less generous settlement. The matter is being debated at an Extraordinary Meeting of the County Council on 09 January to meet the Government's 10 January deadline to be considered for the DPP.

If the government agrees that Kent can be part of the DPP, then we would be committed to have elections for an MSA in May 2026 and to reorganise Medway Council, KCC and the 12 District Councils by either April 2027 or April 2028. This would likely lead to the postponement by the Government of this May's County Council elections as KCC would soon cease to exist. The new Unitary Councils would combine the present services delivered by the County Council and District Council which many see as having potential for better and more cost-effective services. The Government wants to see each unitary cover a population of around 500,000, the MSA would cover the whole of 'historic' Kent (both KCC and Medway areas). This massive change being done at breakneck speed but the Government has made it clear that this is to be the new system for all parts of England. (To be clear these changes do **not** affect any Parish/Town Councils.)

In contrast to the haste for the change in Local Government organisation, the Government has also announced that it is setting up a commission to examine Social Care which will report in 2028. This is disappointing as this is an urgent problem which has had many past reviews and, if not resolved, has the potential to bankrupt local government. Social care used to consume a third of KCC's spending twenty years ago but now takes two thirds which means all other KCC services are deprived of funding.

As a rural area I know many of our residents are aware of the impact the changes to Agricultural Property Relief (aka the Family Farm tax) will have on the viability of family farms, the rural economy and the environment. At the meeting of the Full Council at KCC on 19 December we debated a motion condemning the Government's Family Farm Tax. I spoke in the debate and I'm pleased to report that the motion passed with no votes against with just the Labour Group abstaining. Nearly every County Council has now passed a similar motion which helps show the support British farmers have from their local communities.

To end with some good news. Several teams within KCC have been externally assessed as providing exceptional service including our Library Service and our Audit Team.

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.

F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD – Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee (Conservative)

jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887 918 458  @jennyhollingsbee

F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD –

Cllr Elaine Martin Contact: (Green Party) Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

District Councillors' Report February 2025

We decided to do a joint report this month on the very important decision taken by KCC and Medway Council that will completely change our electoral landscape.

Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation

On 10 January 2025, Cllr Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council and Cllr Vince Maple Leader of Medway submitted an expression of interest to the Government asking that Kent and Medway be considered as a priority area for Devolution. The decision to put Kent forward was taken by KCC Cabinet Members at a meeting on 9 January.

Big changes lie ahead for local government in our area. Under the proposals there will be a directly elected mayor and all 14 councils in Kent will be abolished and replaced by a small number of much larger unitary authorities. The exact detail of what will come next is still to be determined.

Although the Leader and Chief Executive of FHDC have attended many meetings, the decision to put Kent & Medway forward to the DPP programme was out of our hands.

Joining the Priority Programme could mean that this May's Local Elections will be postponed. In his letter of 16 December, Jim McMahon MP, Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, stated that to deliver both devolution and reorganisation according to the exacting schedules of the Devolution Priority Programme he was minded to lay secondary legislation to postpone local elections from May 2025 to May 2026. Acceptance on to the Devolution Priority Programme will commit Kent and Medway to elections to a new Mayoral Strategic Authority (MSA) in May 2026 and implementation of local government reorganisation by either April 2027 or April 2028. It is understood that the Government will notify the Leaders of KCC and Medway by the end of January as to whether or not they have been selected for the Devolution Priority Programme.

It is expected that the Government will ask the 14 Kent Councils collectively to submit one (or more) schemes for the local government re-organisation. An indicative proposal will need to be submitted in March with a confirmed version in the autumn. At this point there will be a formal consultation with residents.

Reading the Devolution White Paper, we can only find one reference to Town and Parish Councils which is as follows - "We know people value the role of governance at the community scale and that can be a concern when local government is reorganised. We will therefore want to see stronger community arrangements when reorganisation happens in the way councils engage at a neighbourhood or area level. We will also rewire the relationship between town and parish councils and principal Local Authorities, strengthening expectations on engagement and community voice."

This is just the beginning – there will be so much work to do. Please watch this space as we will provide regular updates on the situation.

To view the KCC Full Council and Cabinet Meetings see [Webcast library - Kent County Council Webcasting](#)

for the Devolution White Paper [English Devolution White Paper - GOV.UK](#)

Contact jennyhollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk -- elainemartin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Age UK Hythe Lyminge & Ashford – I have been contacted by many residents over the last month concerning the closing of the Centre in Lyminge. I have again, been in contact with Officers at the District

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Council as I am well aware that the Lyminge Community are keen to retain space for a café and a social space. The District Council own the building and are looking to create housing units for local people and are still considering the next stage for Everist Court. I have asked that the Community be consulted before any decision is finalised.

Housing targets – at a recent Planning Briefing, we were informed that the Government housing target for our District has been increased from 735 per annum to 859 per annum! Currently the District is far below the target and has been for quite a few years. There has recently been a ‘call for sites’ and the Government is asking for Local Plans to be revised.

On a personal note, I am very saddened by the sudden death of Stan Bull. Although, often called Pip, I always called him Stan. I had known him almost all of his life as his father and other members of the family worked for my family. Stan has always been a popular figure around the Village and has devoted many hours to the Parish Council, undertaking a whole range of tasks. He was always on hand if anyone needed help. My thoughts are with Mary and the family at this time.

Unfortunately, just having heard about Stan, I was also informed that George Oakley had died and again my thoughts are with Margaret and the family. George was a very active member of the Sports & Social Club and was the leading light in raising funds and implementing the new playground away from the road and in a better position for parents to watch their children. We are ever grateful for his work.



British Legion Party in Sellindge Village Hall 1948

SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – SWAN LANE

Monday – Crafty Crafters – 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Tuesday – Whist Drive – 7pm

Wednesday – Pilates — 9.30am

Thursday – BINGO 8pm

Thurs Pizza nights, **Fri** Fish and Chips, takeaway & local delivery available.

Open 9am Saturdays and Sundays

serving Breakfast Rolls & full menu.

Sunday – The Sunday Roast Eat in, takeaway and local delivery available, please call or text 07876 794 323 or pm to book your Slot, book in advance to avoid missing out.

Table Top Sale - Saturday February 1st Tables available to book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319



See Facebook for what's going on.



AFC Sellindge – Play in the Ashford & District Sunday League – Division 2 – KO 10.30am
Feb 16th Home V Park Farm Folkestone

Sellindge Ladies Football Club play on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm they compete in the Southeast Kent Women's League in Division two

Feb 9th Home V Ramsgate – SECWFL CUP

Feb 16th Away V Park Regis – Kent Women's Plate.

Feb 2nd Home V Staplehurst – SECWFL CUP. **Mar 2nd** Away V Baypoint.

Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 9 Ashford & District Youth League – Sats KO 10am

Feb 15th Away V Kennington Colts **Feb 22nd** Home V South Ashford.

Mar 1st Home V Hythe Town Blue.

Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 14 mixed play Sundays in the Kent Girls/Ladies League Division 3 KO 10am

Feb 9th Away V Canterbury Eagles. **Feb 16th** Home V Anchorians Heart.

Feb 23rd Away V Welling Utd Blue. **Mar 2nd** Home V Cobham Colts.



Membership – To be renewed in January £10 pp for the year.

Village Hall Weekly Events

www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk

MONDAY

SUPERSTRIKERS 9.30am - 10.30am
RAINBOWS 4pm – 5pm
BROWNIES 5.15pm - 6.45pm
LINE DANCING 7.30pm – 9pm

Main Hall www.superstrikers.co.uk
Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
Main Hall – 07753 274 913

TUESDAY

COFFEE & COMPANY 9am – 12.30pm
MOTHER & BABY GROUP 1.30pm – 3pm
LINE DANCING 6pm – 7.30pm,

Main Hall
Main Hall
Main Hall – 07989 210 449

WEDNESDAY

BABY MASSAGE & TUMMY TIME 10am – 12.00 Noon
PLAY GYM 0 – 6 months 1pm – 2pm
L+S TABLE TENNIS
BEES BODS 5.45pm – 6.45pm
AEROBIC BODY BLAST 7pm - 8pm

Durling Hall
Durling Hall ****NEW****
Main Hall ****NEW****
Main Hall - 01303 813 274
Main Hall - 01233 820 109

THURSDAY

TINY TALK 10am – 11am
PILATES 9.30 – 10.45am
PLAY GYM 6 – 12 months 12 Noon – 1pm
PLAY GYM 12 months + 1.30pm – 2.30pm
TAEKWONDO Various classes from 5.15pm

Durling Hall
Main Hall
Main Hall ****NEW****
Main Hall ****NEW****
Main Hall – 01303 814 635

FRIDAY

RUGBY TOTS 9.15am – 10.15am
1st SELLINDGE SCOUT GROUP **CUBS** - 6 - 7.30pm,
Both Halls **SCOUTS** - 7.30-9.00pm, **BEAVERS** - 6.00-7.15pm,
EXPLORERS 7.30—9.00pm.
01303 813 250. 1stsellindgesg@gmail.com (Term time)

Village Hall Monthly Events

TUESDAY

PARISH COUNCIL 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm **Durling Hall** – Parish Clerk 01303 813 271

WEDNESDAY

GET TOGETHER CLUB 2nd Wednesday of the month 2pm – 4pm **Durling Hall**

SATURDAY

SUNDAY



Sellindge Village Hall

Halls available for hire.
 Meetings, Clubs, Parties,
 Wedding receptions etc

01303 813250 sellindgevillagehall@gmail.com



Stour Downs Parish Brabourne, Mersham, Monks Horton, Sellindge, Smeeth & Stowting Churches

Rev Susan Manners (Interim Curate in Charge) 01233 500 414 www.stourdowns.org.uk also on Facebook

STOUR DOWNS PARISH Vicar's letter –

Dear all

February can be a gloomy grey month and it can often still be very cold if this January is anything to go by.. Yet amongst this greyness the occasional sunny day and the growth of the early spring flowers bring bursts of light and colour. In the ordinary days after Christmas and before Easter we get those brighter days too. One such day is Valentine's Day – the day where many people celebrate love.

Yet the story of St. Valentine himself may not seem at first to be as bright as we might have hoped.

St. Valentine was a third century Roman saint associated with the tradition of courtly love. As you can read in books about the Middle Ages, the story goes that St. Valentine refused to deny his love for Christ before the Roman Emperor Claudius. So, because of this, the Roman Emperor had Valentine's head chopped off. However, before Valentine's head was toppled, the story goes on to reveal that in an act of love and compassion, Valentine restored the sight and hearing of his own executioner's daughter.

This is far removed from the vast industry of cards and gifts that have built up around St. Valentine's Day, when expressions of love matter. It is at the centre of Valentine's story that we find a surprising depth and expression of love; a love that Valentine found and was inspired to follow and make his own. The love of God offered to him through Jesus. A love through which Jesus offered compassion to a world that would crucify Him. A love that Valentine would share with those who jailed and executed him. A love in which Jesus would find the courage to stand up for who He loved; each one of us, just as Valentine had the courage to stand up to Claudius, for his love of Christ.

I hope that this Valentine's you will be embraced by God's love and the love of those around you. And if this Valentine's Day you intend to lose your head over love for someone special, then I pray that the Lord will bless that love, with the depth, compassion and courage displayed by St. Valentine, but even more importantly, through the love God expressed in the gift of his Son Jesus. A gift that says, 'I love you.'

So, this Valentine's Day, if the cards don't come and you're left with a feeling of unloved disappointment, I pray that you will remember the gift of true love that is Jesus and know that whether it is Valentine's Day or not, in Him, you are truly loved.

Every blessing, Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs

February 2025

	Smeeth 9:30am	Mersham 9:30am	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
2nd February (Candlemas)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship - Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
9th February (4 th Sunday before Lent)	Morning Praise	Parish Communion				11am Communion
19th February (3 rd Sunday before Lent)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
23rd February (2 nd Sunday before Lent)	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Wednesday services on 5/2, 12/2 19/2, 26/2 at 9:30am			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			

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