

# SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

## MARCH 2025

Edition 731



**HI KENT** Reg Charity 1052036 [www.hikent.org.uk](http://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— **March 11<sup>th</sup> from 10.15am to 11.15am.**



Hi Kent at Coffee & Company every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday monthly. 2025 dates – April 8<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> – June 10<sup>th</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup> – August 12<sup>th</sup> – September 9<sup>th</sup> – October 14<sup>th</sup> – November 11<sup>th</sup> – December 9<sup>th</sup>

### 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.

### MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR MARCH 2025

[www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries](http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries)

Email [ashfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk](mailto: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 March 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**

St Kathrines Cresent TN25 6FU.

**Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.20pm on March 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**



## Kent Libraries

### SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk) 01303 813 271 [clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk)

The next meeting of your Parish Council is on Tuesday March 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Dog poo bags are also still available from Nigel at Trust Cottages in Moorstock Lane, he puts them on a patio chair or table outside his house,

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

**LAUNCHED !!!** [www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk)

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



**Clocks go forward** at 2am on Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> when GMT ends, and BST begins.

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

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

[Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk) Mobile 07887 918 458

### **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation –**

In view of the Government Reorganisation Programme with Kent County Council, Medway Council and the Districts and Boroughs likely to disappear over the next few years, I put forward a motion to full Council on 29 January to ask the Secretary of State for permission to remain as a Cabinet/Leader style of Governance. This is to allow resources, Officer and staff time and funding to be focused on ensuring our residents get the best deal possible moving forward. The motion was passed by 16 votes to 13.

It is extremely disappointing that Kent is not in the priority programme as some funding was promised. However, Kent and Medway are still expected, to put forward a proposal by the 21 of March on how many Unitary Council's Kent and Medway should have with a full programme of implementation by the Autumn. At the moment three or four unitary councils are being considered, three I think would be sensible in East Kent, West Kent and North Kent. Dividing the County into four is more difficult.

In the meantime Kent County Council elections will take place on 1 May.

### **Council Tax –**

At the Budget Full Council Meeting on 26 February, an increase of 2.99% was agreed by the current administration. This equates to £8.85 per annum for a Band D Property. There was concern within the agreed budget for the revaluation of Princes Parade from a development site with planning permission, to amenity land reducing the asset value by £17.2m.

### **Kent & Medway Police & Crime Panel –**

I attended the Budget Police & Crime Panel on 4 February. In order to balance the budget, there is a need to make savings of £10m – for details [Agenda for Kent and Medway Police and Crime Panel on Tuesday, 4th February, 2025, 10.00 am](#) In the circumstances, it was unanimously agreed to an increase in the precept to £14 per year for a Band D Property. Meetings are held quarterly and I can put one question to the Commissioner on policy (not operations), the next meeting is in June.

### **Scrutiny Programme – 2025-2026 –**

Residents have the opportunity to shape the programme of the council's overview and scrutiny committee. Ideas do not have to be limited to the council or its services – but cannot include planning applications, licensing matters, housing appeals or disciplinary issues.

For further details [Getting what matters to you on the agenda | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#)

**F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD – Cllr Elaine Martin Contact:** (Green Party)

[Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk](mailto:Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk)

F&HDC have been informed that KCC is not on the priority list for devolution, meaning that the KCC Elections in May of this year will be going ahead as originally planned.

The Officers at F&HDC have said there is a lot of work to do before they can consider what happens with the AgeUK building in Lyminge and a final decision has yet been made. However, to continue to make use of the building as a community facility it would need to be kept maintained and serviced and the council do not have the resources to do this.

Agreeing the final collaboration agreement for the Otterpool Park development is moving into a final stage. Interviews have been carried out for the post of Home England's project manager in order for them to report on progress.

If you are over 66 and are not eligible for pension credit you could be entitled to vouchers worth £200 to help pay for food, energy or both, via the KCC Just Missing Out Scheme.

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk/justmissingout](http://www.kent.gov.uk/justmissingout) to apply or

call your local Citizens Advice branch for support – 0300 304 8003.

FHDC are to launch a Green Grants scheme later this month. The money will be available over the next two years and is targeted at groups whose aim is to increase climate resilience and reduce carbon footprints.

This will be available across the district and applications will be invited from parishes, community groups and other organisations. It can be used for anything from rewilding and tree planting to parish premises improvements.

# Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or [www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport](http://www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport)



 Animal & Plant Health Agency

**Asian Hornet** – Spring is now here, time to look out for Queen Asian Hornets, who will be coming out of hibernation from sheds and other outbuildings, so keep an eye open. Although no sightings were reported in Sellindge last year. There were sighting in our close neighbour village Lympne.

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

The Government has decided that Kent County Council and Medway Council will not be part its Devolution Priority Programme, but KCC and District Councils must still produce plans for Unitary Councils (putting the District Councils together with KCC). There won't be elections for a mayor in 2026 or the extra funding and powers that were promised to go with this. Elections will go ahead as planned for KCC in May.

KCC set its budget for 2025/26 at an all-day meeting on Thursday 13 February. Your Council Tax will rise by 4.99% but the only area where spending will increase is social care with all other areas bearing the brunt of the necessary savings to meet the increased costs and demand for social care. This rise is in line with other Councils in England although a few have been allowed by the Government to increase Council Tax by up to 10%.

During the General Election campaign Labour promised a one-year Council Tax freeze but there has been no offer from the Government to fund this. The last time we had a Council Tax freeze was about ten years ago when the Conservative Government offered a grant equivalent to 2% increase if Council Tax was held at the previous year's level. KCC took part in this scheme for two years.

Sadly the 4.99% increase in Council Tax is necessary and there were no proposals from any Councillors of any party to reduce the increase (the voting by each Councillor on the budget and amendments is recorded in the minutes and the debate is available to view on the website [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)).

We desperately need proper funding of social care before it subsumes all other Council services.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Kent & Medway is now available for public consultation at [Let's talk Kent](#) and everyone is invited to give their views on what's now proposed following much work including workshops across Kent and the opportunity for both individuals and organisations to contribute. Called 'Making Space for Nature' this policy will be crucial for identifying the land that's available or needed for nature and how we will measure success. Please give your views.

I was pleased to see that the Chancellor has indicated support for the Lower Thames Crossing. The new Government had announced a delay in making a decision until May 2025 and that is still the date when a Development Consent Order is expected. This project is a nationally important one and particularly key for Kent. Most HGV traffic currently uses the M20 and, if there is disruption to cross Channel traffic, congestion and delays spread out across our local roads and the M20 is used to manage queuing HGVs. Residents of this part of Kent know only too well that these delays are a major disruption to people's lives and businesses. The Lower Thames Crossing will offer a better route for Dover bound HGV traffic and KCC will push for the upgrades needed to Kent's roads, accommodate the expected change in traffic flows. I attended the meeting of Sellindge Parish Council on 11 February where I reported on much of the above.

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**THE SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB** – [www.sellindgesportsclub.co.uk](http://www.sellindgesportsclub.co.uk)

**Sunday Roasts** booking up fast, please call or text 07876 794 323 to book a table, collection or delivery (in Sellindge) we would hate you to miss out!! £9 takeaway £10 to eat in, served 1pm till 5pm

**Thursday Pizza** nights, takeaway and local delivery available.

**Fridays Fish and Chips**, takeaway and local delivery available.

Open from 9am Saturdays and Sundays

serving Breakfast Rolls and full menu.

**Mondays** **Crafty Crafters** – 1.30pm to 3.30pm

**Tuesdays** **Whist Drive** – 7pm

**Wednesdays** **Pilates** – 9.30am

**Thursdays** **Bingo** – 8pm

**Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, Quiz Night** 7.30pm, £2 per person max 6 people per table. Quiz Night menu and lovely drinks available. Please call or text 07876 794 323 or PM us.



Next **Tabletop Sale** – **Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup>** Tables available to book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319

**See Facebook for what's going on.**



**AFC Sellindge** Play the Ashford & District Sunday League – Division 2 – KO 10.30am

**March 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Away V Woodchurch KO at 10.30am

**30<sup>th</sup>** – Away V Woodchurch KO at 10.30am

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

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Betteshanger KO at 2pm

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Lydd Town KO at 2pm

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Away V Hawkinge KO at 2pm

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

**March 8<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Wittersham KO at 10am

**15<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Bromley Green KO at 10am

**22<sup>nd</sup>** – Away V Headcorn KO at 10am

**29<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Lydd Town u9 Yellow KO at 10am

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

**March 9<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Welling utd Blue KO 10am

**16<sup>th</sup>** – Home V Broncos KO 10am

**23<sup>rd</sup>** – Home V Margate KO 10am



## Village Hall Weekly Events

[www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk](http://www.sellindgevillagehall.co.uk)

### MONDAY

SUPERSTRIKERS	9.30am - 10.30am	Main Hall <a href="http://www.superstrikers.co.uk">www.superstrikers.co.uk</a>
RAINBOWS	4pm - 5pm	Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
BROWNIES	5.15pm - 6.45pm	Main Hall - 01303 812 297 (Term time)
LINE DANCING	7.30pm - 9pm	Main Hall - 07753 274 913

### TUESDAY

COFFEE & COMPANY	9am - 12.30pm	Main Hall
MOTHER & BABY GROUP	1.30pm - 3pm	Main Hall
LINE DANCING	6pm - 7.30pm,	Main Hall - 07989 210 449

### WEDNESDAY

BABY MASSAGE & TUMMY TIME	10am - 12.00 Noon	Durling Hall
PLAY GYM 0 - 6 months	1pm - 2pm	Durling Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
L+S TABLE TENNIS		Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
BEES BODS	5.45pm - 6.45pm	Main Hall - 01303 813 274
AEROBIC BODY BLAST	7pm - 8pm	Main Hall - 01233 820 109

### THURSDAY

TINY TALK	10am - 11am	Durling Hall
PILATES	9.30 - 10.45am	Main Hall
PLAY GYM 6 - 12 months	12 Noon - 1pm	Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
PLAY GYM 12 months +	1.30pm - 2.30pm	Main Hall <b>**NEW**</b>
TAEKWONDO	Various classes from 5.15pm	Main Hall - 01303 814 635

### FRIDAY

RUGBY TOTS	9.15am - 10.15am	Main Hall
1 <sup>st</sup> SELLINDGE SCOUT GROUP	CUBS - 6 - 7.30pm, SCOUTS - 7.30-9.00pm, 01303 813 250. <a href="mailto:1stsellindgesg@gmail.com">1stsellindgesg@gmail.com</a> (Term time)	BEAVERS - 6.00-7.15pm, EXPLORERS 7.30-9.00pm.

Both Halls

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.stourdowns.org.uk) also on Facebook

## STOUR DOWNS PARISH Vicar's letter – March 2025

Dear all,

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 5<sup>th</sup> March and the day before we have pancake day. The original idea behind pancake day was to use up any remaining items in the house which couldn't be used in Lent. So, what is Lent all about? It is a period of 40 days before Easter.

The 40 days of Lent, however you count them (with or without Sundays), remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. There are lots of things you can do in Lent. Some people give things up whether it is chocolate, alcohol or meat or even playing computer games! Others take things up as Smeeth Church does, which you can read more about below. Some choose to do something for a charity or give to one each day. Others take time away from normal things to read a particular book, and Christians often choose to spend more time with the Bible or in prayer. As a wider Parish including all six Churches in our Parish, we will be offering Lent Lunches on Saturdays in Lent, and we will have two Lent study groups as well as a thought for the day email written by members of the congregation. If you are interested in any of these things keep an eye on our Facebook page or drop me an email.

Following previous Lent challenges Smeeth Church are again this year making a Pew runner for Smeeth Church but also making 40 packs of greeting cards from recycled materials. A pack could contain one card or many and could be specifically for Christmas or designed to be used for any occasion. In the making, we are looking not just for recycled used cards but for crochet, embroidery and even metal or wood. The more creative the better. We will also be actively tracking the swallows.

For more information, please contact [cirrus.five@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cirrus.five@yahoo.co.uk)

Whatever you choose whether it is because you believe in God or not it is always good to take a bit of time to take stock, to look around and look within and reflect. If you do believe in God then take the time to prepare for Easter.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March we will have a Mothering Sunday service in Sellindge Church at 9:30am to which all are welcome. With every blessing, Rev Susan

### Services in the Stour Downs

#### March 2025

	Smeeth 9:30am	Mersham 9:30am	Brabourne	<u>Stowting</u>	Monks Horton	<u>Sellindge</u>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> March</b> (Sunday next before Lent)	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Iona</b>	<b>10am Family Service</b>		<b>6pm Evensong</b>	
<b>9<sup>th</sup> March</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>				<b>11am Communion</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> March</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>11am Communion</b>			
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> March</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>Communion for all</b>		<b>11am Communion</b>		
<b>30<sup>th</sup> March</b> (4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)						<b>9:30am Parish Communion Mothering Sunday</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 5/3 Ash Wednesday Communion 12/3, 19/3, 26/3			<b>9:30am Midweek Parish Communion</b>			

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