

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

APRIL 2025

Edition 732



KCC COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2025

The KCC County Elections take place on **Thursday May 1st 2025**.
Polling Station is Sellindge Village Hall. Polling from 7am to 10pm.

← **MOST important – don't forget your photo ID !!!!**

Candidates – ELHAM VALLEY DIVISION

COLLEN – Mason Henry –	Labour Party.
HESPE – Chrisopher –	Reform UK.
MARTIN – Jim –	The Green Party.
NEWING – Emily –	Liberal Democrats.
RICHARDSON – Sarah –	Conservative Party

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 – **April 8th from 10.15am to 11.15am.**

Hi Kent at Coffee & Company every 2nd Tuesday

2025 dates – May 13th – June 10th – July 8th – August 12th – Sept 9th – Oct 14th – Nov 11th – Dec 9th

SELLINDGE WALKING GROUP – **Please note new meet up time and set off time.**

We meet at the Village Hall on a Tuesday morning at approximately 10am and set off at 10.15am.

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 APRIL 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 April 10th & 24th

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.20pm on April 11th & 25th



Kent Libraries

E SEDGEWICK & SARAH GODFREY CHARITY – Allotments

Allotment available in Sellindge call Angela 07944 226 520 for information

SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB

Sellindge Sports and **Social Club AGM 6pm Monday 14th April**, All villagers welcome Just come along to see what is going on at the Club or new committee members very welcome.

Good Friday 18th April
Walk of Witness in Sellindge at 10am
starting at the Village Hall
ending with hot cross buns and coffee at the church

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



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or 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.

SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

The next meeting of your Parish Council is on Tuesday April 8th starting at 6.30pm in the Durling Hall.

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.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – There have been no requests for an election to fill the recently advertised vacancy. So, if you would like to become a **Parish Councillor**. Please contact the Proper Officer / Clerk for more details – clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk phone 01303 813271 (please leave a message)

Come to the office when it is open (Tues morning Fri afternoon) or phone to arrange an appointment.

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

Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

As requested by the Government in its Local Government Reorganisation letter an interim submission was made by KCC and all the Districts in the county. The submission sets out proposals to divide into either three or four Unitary Councils. The final submission will be prepared and delivered to the Government on the 28th November this year. If you were unable to attend the Public Meeting held on the 17th March you can still submit any questions you have regarding Local Government Reorganisation by emailing them to committee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

The Otterpool Park collaboration agreement with Homes England has been signed. On signing the agreement Homes England will pay F&HDC the money it owes for the planning permission obtained on the site. The start of the Collaboration agreement will be backdated to the 1st February and run until August. The purpose of the collaboration agreement is to allow negotiation time for Homes England to become F&HDC's strategic partner.

The Lyminge Age UK building is to be handed back to F&HDC at the end of March. F&HDC have appointed City Guardians to provide security to prevent squatting, vandalism and theft from the building whilst it is empty. City Guardians work by letting out rooms on a rolling monthly contract to 'guardians', Guardians must be over 18 years old are vetted by City Guardians before they can register to rent a property.

Unfortunately, the average council tax to finance Folkestone & Hythe's net spending plans in 2025/26, including special expenses, is to be increased by 2.99%. Town and parish precepts form part of the council tax requirement.

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

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

Budget 2025/26 – The current Administration agreed the budget for 2025/2026 on 26 February 2025. This budget increases Council Tax by 2.99% - an increase of £8.85 on a Band D Property. Fees and charges were also increased. My group abstained from voting because we are concerned by the decrease in assets of £17.2m due to the land held for the Princes Parade Project being revalued as amenity land instead of residential development land. We also asked a question on provision of leisure facilities within the District (including a swimming pool) as there is no immediate funding shown in the budget. There is an additional expense regarding the increased Employers' National Insurance contributions of about £250,000 as the Government promised reimbursement only covered half the cost and this is only for this year!

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

Age UK Hythe Lyminge & Ashford – Along with other District Councillors', I received the proposed plan for The Lyminge Community Hub at Everist Court. I had a discussion with the Director of Housing and Operations who said that the Leader of the Council was considering the proposal and would be responding in due course.

Call for sites – FHDC re-opens the call for sites on 13 March and will run for 6 weeks closing at 5 pm on 24 April.

The Council are seeking land for several uses, the main one being housing (including plots for Gypsy and Travellers and self-build) but also for employment and community uses. For further information, please see the FHDC website.

Local Government Re-organisation – The Government has asked for interim plans on Local Government Re-organisation by 21 March. This involves the creation of a one tier system across Kent. By the time you read this, proposals for the number of unitary Councils for Kent and Medway will have been submitted to Government.

There are likely to be four Models submitted.

Model 1 is a three unitary model which has FHDC with Ashford, Dover, Thanet and Canterbury

Model 2 is a four unitary model which has FHDC with Dover and Ashford

Model 3 is a four unitary model which has FHDC with Ashford & Swale

Model 4 is a four unitary model which has FHDC with Thanet and Dover

FHDC have agreed to do some analysis on the models with a view to assessing which is the best model for the District. This is additional work for Officers and is likely to increase the Council's cost.

Government have promised feedback on the initial proposals to the District Leaders and it is expected that a full detailed proposal will need to be submitted by 28 November 2025. However, if there is no overall agreement by District Leaders, the Government could impose a model on us!

The view of my group is to go for Model 1, merging with Ashford, Dover, Thanet and Canterbury. Although this seems very large scale it is very much in keeping with the Government criteria in that a Unitary should have a minimum of 500,000 (Model 1 would be about 650,000) population. Other models have at least one unitary less than the 500,000 pop.

However, watch this space! **Update:** the Kent & Medway letter has been sent and has been acknowledged by the SoS stating that feedback will be received during the week beginning 28 April.

Finally – our County Cllr Susan Carey is standing down as a Member of Kent County Council as at 1 May 2025. She has been our Kent County Councillor for 20 years and I would like to put on record my personal thanks and also that of many residents of the Elham Valley Division. Her kindness, expertise and willingness to help and support residents over the years has been exceptional. Personally, I've worked with Susan for 26 years as previously she was also my District Colleague for North Downs West. I'll certainly miss a wonderful friend and colleague and wish her and her husband John, all best wishes for their retirement.

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

KCC has now sent out offers for Secondary School places for pupils starting this September. 21,767 applications were made and more than 96% have been offered one of their four preferred schools with 81% offered their first choice (up from 79% last year). KCC is now helping find places for those who did not receive a place (usually because not all four preferences were used) in a second round of offers on 24 April.

One of the many duties KCC undertakes is the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme which started in March 2022. Kent saw one of the largest numbers of householders offering accommodation to Ukrainians who had fled the invasion of their country by Russia. That scheme was closed in February 2025 but many Ukrainians are still based in Kent and KCC itself has a Memorandum of Understanding to develop and deepen co-operation with Chernihiv, one of the regions in Ukraine. There are plans this year for community and educational links as well as joint work on veterans' policy and links between respective chambers of commerce and industry. Support for Ukraine remains strong in the County.

KCC has won the Local Authority Energy Efficiency Award for the Southeast with its solar farm at Kings Hill singled out for praise. This site was a redundant pig farm and now generates three million kWh of electricity a year reducing KCC's energy costs and carbon emissions. As someone deeply involved in winning the grant funding for this project and the work involved to deliver it, I am delighted it has now been cited as an example for other councils to follow.

KCC has submitted evidence to the Transport Select Committee about the problems caused by utility companies digging up our roads to install, repair or maintain their services such as water, gas, electricity and broadband. Such works account for the majority road closures in Kent and KCC has very limited powers to control them especially if the utility companies describe them as 'emergency works'. KCC is recommending that the legal definition of 'emergency works' is amended and that there should be greater use of specialised traffic planning technology to reduce the time that roads are occupied. My KCC colleague, Neil Baker has now been invited to give verbal evidence to the Select Committee.

We all hate potholes and each Spring there's usually a government announcement of extra money to fix them. We welcome this but it's always well short of what's actually needed to tackle the countrywide maintenance backlog. The recent report from Asphalt UK estimates that an extra £17 billion is needed to fix the black holes across the UK. Asphalt UK is calling for a complete overhaul of Government Road funding so that councils can plan large-scale, long-term road maintenance. Asphalt UK have an obvious interest in more asphalt being used but they are also right that the present system of relatively small dollops of extra funding is not working and KCC supports their call.

Locally I was pleased to attend the March meeting of Sellindge Parish Council, but their April meeting will be my last as I'm standing down from KCC after 20 years as County Councillor for Elham Valley.

From 01 May you will have a new County Member and next month will be my final newsletter entry.

If you need my help, make sure you contact me before then.



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

Wednesday Noodle Night takeaway and local delivery available.

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

OPENING TIMES

Monday	3pm – 7pm
Tuesday	3pm – 9pm
Wednesday	3pm – 9pm
Thursday	3pm – 10pm
Friday	3pm – 11pm
Saturday	9am – 11pm
Sunday	9am – 6pm
Closing times subject to change	

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

Quiz Night – **Friday April 4th** at 7.30pm – teams of max of 6 - £2 per person

Music Bingo – **Saturday 12th** – Start at 8pm

Sellindge Sports and **Social Club AGM 6pm Monday 14th April**, All villagers welcome Just come along to see what is going on at the Club or new committee members very welcome.

Easter Weekend

Good Friday (April 18th) – Easter Egg Hunt – 2pm to 4pm

Easter Sunday (April 20th) – Easter Sunday Carvery – 12 Noon to 4pm – Book a Place

See Facebook for what's going on.



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

April 6th – Home V Fox Sunday KO at 10.30am

13th – Away V Shadoxhurst KO at 10.30am

27th – Home V Pristine KO at 10.30 am

May 4th – Away V Saltwood 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

April 6th – Home V Lydd Town KO at 2pm

13th – Away V Ramsgate KO at 2pm

27th – Away V Mersham KO at 2pm

May 4th – Away V Baypoint Seconds KO at 2pm

Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 9

Ashford & District Youth League – Sats KO 10am

April 5th – Away V Hythe Town (red) KO at 10am

26th – Home V Kennington u9 Colts KO at 10am

May 3rd – Away V South Ashford u9 KO at 10am

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

April 6th – Away V Cobham Colts KO 10am



Village Hall Weekly Events

MONDAY	SUPERSTRIKERS	9.30am -10.30am	Main Hall	www.superstrikers.co.uk
	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	**NEW**
	L+S TABLE TENNIS		Main Hall	**NEW**
	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	**NEW**
	PLAY GYM 12 months +	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Main Hall	**NEW**
	TAEKWONDO Various classes	5.15pm	Main Hall –	01303 814 635
FRIDAY	RUGBY TOTS	9.15am – 10.15am	Main Hall	
	1st SELLINDGE SCOUT GROUP CUBS - 6 -7.30pm, BEAVERS - 6.00-7.15pm, Both Halls SCOUTS - 7.30-9.00pm, 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, 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 – April 2025

Easter is fast approaching and those of you who have given up things for Lent are probably counting the days. I don't give things up for Lent, rather I take things up and am also looking forward to the point at which I can put them down again. The shops largely ignore Lent because it encourages less rather than more consumption, but Easter is another matter, and the Easter eggs have been on the shelves since shortly after Christmas! However, Lent is important because it is an opportunity to stop and take a breath and hopefully the school holidays might do that although I'm sure for some it is rather the opposite.

As we come to the end of Lent we begin the celebration of Easter. One of the children in one of the schools I go to asked me the other day which is more important Easter or Christmas, and it is a tough one to answer. There are some Christians who will say one and some the other. I, on the other hand, think the answer is both because without Christmas you can't have Easter and without Easter our faith wouldn't be what it is.

There are lots of things going on in church over Easter so why not come and join in. On Palm Sunday there is a donkey parade in Brabourne which leaves the Five Bells at 9:15am. Why don't you come along and meet the donkeys and join us in a short walk to St Mary's Brabourne as we remember Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. You are welcome to join us for the service at 9:30 but you can do one without the other. There is also a Palm Sunday Service at Sellindge at 11am. On Good Friday there is a walk of witness in Sellindge starting from the village hall at 10am and there is a quiet contemplative service in Smeeth at 3pm when we remember Jesus' death on the cross. Then on Easter Day join us as we celebrate the resurrection with an Easter service at Sellindge at 8am and then a trail at Monks Horton from 10:30 to 12 noon.

Drop in anytime and join in the hunt.

Every blessing, Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs

April 2025

	Smeeth 9:30am	Mersham 9:30am	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
6th April (5 th Sunday of Lent)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship - Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
13th April (Palm Sunday)	Morning Praise	Palm Sunday Parish Communion (Canon Gilbert)	9:30am Palm Sunday with Donkey parade			11am Communion
Holy Week 14th - 18th April	18/4 - 3pm Hour at the Foot of the Cross	17/4 - 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Communion				
20th April (Easter Sunday)	Easter Communion (Rev Paul)	Easter Communion	11am Easter Communion	11am Easter Communion (Rev Paul)	6pm Easter Evensong	8am Easter Communion
27th April (2 nd Sunday of Easter)	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Wednesday 2/4 at 10:30 (school Service) 9/4, 16/4, 23/4, 30/4 normal time			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			



Easter and Holy Week

Stour Downs

Palm Sunday 13th April

Donkey Parade from the Five Bells 9:15am and service at 9:30
at Brabourne

Holy Communion at Mersham at 9:30am

Morning Praise at Smeeth at 9:30am

Holy Communion at Sellindge at 11am

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday 17th April

Holy Communion at Mersham at 7:30pm

Good Friday 18th April

Walk of Witness in Sellindge at 10am
starting at the Village Hall

ending with hot cross buns and coffee at the church

An Hour at the Foot of the Cross at Smeeth at 3pm

Easter Saturday 19th April

Easter Egg Hunt at Mersham 10-12

Easter Sunday 20th April

Sellindge 8am

Mersham and Smeeth 9:30am

Stowting and Brabourne 11am

Monks Horton 6pm