

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS



DECEMBER 2025

Edition 740

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 Main Hall, Sellindge Village Hall on – **December 9th 10.15am to 11.15am.**



Sellindge School Association
CHRISTMAS FAIR 2025
5th December
School Hall, 3-5pm

- Games
- Shop at Elf'ridges
- Visit the Elf Post Office

Enjoy music by Wayne Bridle
Tea, cake & mulled wine at the Tinsel Café
And much, much more!

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store..."
"Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more."

KIDS CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GRINCH EXPERIENCE!

We're bringing Whoville to Sellindge!
2 sessions available
Sunday 14th December 11am & 1.30pm
Let your little ones get creative and festive!

- Letter to Santa
- Biscuit Decorating
- Colour Your Own Bag
- Reindeer Food cones
- Meet & Greet with The Grinch
- Hot Chocolate Cones
- Christmas Cards
- Christmas Scratch Art

Sellindge Village Hall
£10 per child
1 Adult goes free with every child.
Extra adults are £2 each.

JOY

Christmas in Sellindge

Friday 19th December 6pm
Carols on the Green

Wednesday 24th December
Crib Service 5pm

⊕ THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND



FOOD SERVICES VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

We are looking for volunteers for the following vacancies within the Rainbow Centre food services:

New Romney Foodbank – Urgent requirement for four volunteers.

The foodbank operates every Tuesday from 4 – 5.30pm.

Mobile Food Service are looking for volunteers for the following days:

Tuesday from 09.30am – 1pm Friday from 09.30 – 11.30am

The above vacancies will be working directly with people accessing our foodbank and Pantry services. If you are good with people, can work as part of a team of volunteers and have a couple of hours a week to spare why not contact us to find out more.

Hythe Food Warehouse We have two vacancies at our food warehouse based in Hythe. These are on a Tuesday & Wednesday from 9am – 12 noon. Working as part of a team to process orders, sort incoming stock, checking of dates and rotate shelf stock. All positions require references and DBS check which is carried out through the Rainbow Centre. The most precious gift you can give to us, is your time. If you are interested in any of these vacancies please contact Andrew Bragg Volunteer Development and Events Officer 01303 850 733 andrew.bragg@rainbow-centre.org Or if you would like further information please contact Wendy Lehnert Food Services Manager 07913 573 403 wendy.lehnert@rainbow-centre.org

SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

The next meeting of your Parish Council on **Tuesday December 9th** 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 table outside his house.

Dog Poo Bag dispenser which is located at the entrance to the Village Green. **Please be aware** that due to the misuse of the dog poo bag dispenser, Parish Council have decided to suspend its use until further notice.

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.

****THE PARISH COUNCIL WISH ALL THE RESIDENTS OF SELLINDGE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS ****

MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR DECEMBER 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 **December 4th & 18th**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **December 5th & 19th**



SELLINDGE WALKING GROUP

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.

**** HAPPY CHRISTMAS ****

F&HDC NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD – Cllr Jenny Hollingsbee: (Conservative Party)
Jenny.hollingsbee@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk Mobile 07887 918 458

Otterpool Park – The District Council has, subject to no ‘call in’ agreed further collaboration with Homes England. From the outputs of the work to date a critical next step is to secure full planning approval for Otterpool Park. It is proposed that the Council and Homes England enter into a further period of formal joint working to December 2026 through a Planning Agreement which will be focused on securing the outline consent and enabling the early delivery of new homes. Heads of Terms The Heads of Terms (HoT) which will form the basis for the detailed drafting / negotiation of the Planning Agreement can be found here [Decision - OTTERPOOL PARK: PLANNING AGREEMENT WITH HOMES ENGLAND | Folkestone & Hythe District Council](#). The agreement will cover the period up to the grant of outline planning approval and completion of related work.

Folca (previously Debenhams) The freehold of the c.26,963 square foot space, known as Folca 1, is for sale with marketing agents Avison Young. Sited in a prime town centre location, the building could be suitable for a variety of uses – subject to planning permission. Folca 1 is currently detached from Folca 2 (the Art Deco section of the building) on the first and second floors. The connection between the two on the ground and basement levels will be separated by the council early next year prior to sale.

Folkestone Library – Creative Folkestone has recently announced a plan to work in Partnership with KCC and the Community. It is well known that the Central Library building is in need of extensive maintenance and repairs. Creative Folkestone said “a Significant capital investment will be required to realise the vision we have set out. The proposal to Kent County Council is to work together and apply for central government funding that will enable this important community asset to be brought back to life.”

Bus shelters – Along Middelburg Square - the new Folkestone Bus Station, have recently been installed. The temporary shelters have been sourced to protect passengers from the elements over the coming months. A delay in the supply chain has meant contractor Bauer Media Outdoor (BMO) is unable to install the permanent shelters until early 2026.

Remembrance Day – it was good to see so many services being held across our Ward for Remembrance Sunday. I attended All Saints Stanford with the service starting outside by the Memorial in quite warm and dry weather. It is good to be reminded of those who lost their lives in our Villages and eighty years after the end of the Second World War – ‘We will remember them’.

Local Government Reorganisation – At the Extraordinary full Council on 19 November the decision was to recommend to Cabinet that Model 3a was the preferred model for FHDC. This was ratified by Cabinet and will now be put forward by the Leader to Government on 28 November 2025. Model 3a keeps East Kent together ie Folkestone & Hythe, Dover, Canterbury, Ashford and Thanet.

Thanks – it is the time of the year when I would like to say ‘thank you’ to – Nigel Fursdon, who diligently every month puts this Newsletter together, to the Parish Councillors, the Village Hall Committee, The Sports & Social Club, the School Association, the Stour Downs Parish and all the volunteers and leaders of various other groups in the Village who give so much time to the Village and its community.

May I wish you all, and all local residents a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

KCC CLLR Christopher Hespe – (Reform UK) – Elham Valley – christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk

**** HAPPY CHRISTMAS ****



NORTH DOWNS WEST WARD – Cllr Elaine Martin Contact: (Green Party) Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

At the Extraordinary Full Council meeting last week it was agreed that F&HDC will put forward option 3a to the Government for LGR. This will divide Kent into three Unitary Authorities and combine F&HDC with Ashford, Dover, Canterbury, and Thanet. It will be the Government who make the final decision as to how Kent will be split. It is expected there will be public consultation on the recommended option(s) for Kent in spring 2026.

F&HDC have entered into a further Collaboration Agreement with Homes England to last until December 2026. The next step is to progress from the Resolution to Grant to secure full planning approval for Otterpool Park. It has been agreed that F&HDC and Homes England enter into a further Planning Collaboration Agreement which will focus on securing the consent and enabling early phase delivery of new homes within this Parliament. They will endeavor to submit an updated planning application pack within 6 months and secure the grant of planning permission within 12 months of the signing of the agreement. There will be a longstop date for this agreement of 31st December 2026.

A £5m investment has been agreed for F&HDC to purchase 20 more properties to be used for homeless households in the district. Using council-owned properties as temporary accommodation reduces the reliance on private, nightly-let temporary accommodation and is more cost-effective in the long term.


Temporary bus shelters have been installed in Middelburg Square, Folkestone. Due to supply chain delays, the contractors are unable to install the permanent shelters until next year. Work creating the rain gardens element of the project is underway. The gardens will collect run-off water and filter pollutants to water vegetation and provide a natural habitat for wildlife as well as reusing rainwater to water surrounding plants.

A joint approach to bringing the library in Grace Hill, Folkestone, back into use as a multi-use centre is being made by Creative Folkestone and Sunflower House. They have announced that they propose working together to secure central government funding. The vision is to create a multi-use space as a library alongside new areas for education, creative industries and community events in a repaired and restored building that Kent County Council put up for sale in the summer.

Finally, if you have not already done so, please can I encourage you to sign up for My Community Voice. It is an email service run by Kent Police and regularly sends out updates such as current fraud alerts.



HELP US REDUCE SPEEDING IN OUR VILLAGE!


 *Local volunteers, in partnership with the police, keep an eye on traffic to promote safer driving.*

 *Lower speeds create safer roads for pedestrians, cyclists, and children.*

 *Get involved — your participation can make a real difference in our community!*

JOIN US TODAY!

 admin@sellindge-pc.gov.uk

 01303 813271

Together, we can help make our roads safer for everyone.



Saturdays and Sundays – Our special Summer Menu is now being served plenty of choice, see website for the menus.

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

Junior Darts – 6pm to 7.30pm

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

Tabletop Sale – Saturday December 6th at 9am Tables available book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319



AFC Sellindge Play the Ashford & District Sunday League – Division 3 – KO 10.30am

Dec 7th – Away V Core Athletic – Kent Sunday junior Chairmans Trophy

Sellindge Ladies Football Club play on a Sunday afternoon at 2pm they compete in the Southeast Kent Women's League in Division 1

Dec 7th – Home V Folkestone Invicta

14th – Away V Herne Bay Development.



Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 15 mixed

play Sundays in the Kent Girls/Ladies League Division 2 KO 10am

Dec 7th – Away V Metrogas under 15 Girls

14th – Home V East Kent Pearls

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Christmas breakfast on Sat 13th December 11am with £9pp

Michael Buble tribute night sat 20th Dec £35 pp - booking only

Christmas opening hours

Christmas Eve 12 -9pm

Christmas Day 12 - 2pm

Boxing Day closed

Saturday 27th December 12 till 9pm

Sunday 28th December 12 - 7pm

New Year's Eve - 3pm till late

New Year's Day – closed





Village Hall Weekly Events

Registered Charity No. 302822

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 mths	1pm - 2pm	Durling Hall	
	L+S TABLE TENNIS - afternoons		Main Hall	
	BEES BODS	5.45pm – 6.45pm	Main Hall	
	AEROBIC BODY BLAST	7pm - 8pm	Main Hall	
THURSDAY	TINY TALK	10am – 11am	Durling Hall	
	PILATES	9.30 – 10.45am	Main Hall	
	PLAY GYM 6 – 12 months	Noon – 1pm	Main Hall	
	PLAY GYM 12 months +	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Main Hall	
	TAEKWONDO Various classes	5.15pm	Main Hall	
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 to 4pm – Durling Hall



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 – December 2025

Rev. Susan Vicar, Stour Downs (Brabourne, Mersham, Monks Horton, Sellindge, Smeeth and Stowting).

Dear all,

As we journey into December and approach the close of another year, I find myself reflecting on the year that has been and the year to come. The shorter days and colder nights invite us to seek warmth, not just by the fire, but in the company of friends, neighbours, and loved ones.

This time of year is often filled with a flurry of activity—preparations for Christmas, nativity plays (Come and join us as we tell the Christmas story and put the crib together in Sellindge church at 5pm on Christmas Eve) writing cards and perhaps arranging those much-anticipated family get-togethers. Amid the hustle and bustle, I hope each of us can find a quiet moment to pause and appreciate the joy in preparation and planning but also the season itself. There is something quite special about the way December weaves its magic into our routines, encouraging us to deck the halls with holly, gather around for a roast dinner, and share stories and memories with those closest to us. Even as the frost settles on the ground outside, there’s a warmth to be found in these shared moments—watching a much-loved Christmas special on the telly, joining in with carol singing in the village (Friday 19th on the green), or simply enjoying a mug of hot chocolate while the garden sparkles beneath a crisp winter sky. These simple pleasures linger long after the festive season fades, reminding us that happiness can so often be found in the company of others and the comforting rhythms of daily life.

December is a season of giving, and it is heartening to witness so many in our village reaching out to others, whether through supporting local charities, visiting neighbours who may be alone, or simply offering a kind word. It is in these thoughtful gestures that the true spirit of the season shines brightly.

It can also be a difficult time for some of us and if that is you, we have a service which gives space to remember those whom we miss in Mersham church on Sunday 21st at 3pm.

As we look ahead to the new year, let us carry forward the sense of togetherness and goodwill that makes our village such a special place. May this Christmas bring you peace, joy, and time to connect with those who matter most.

With warmest wishes for a happy and healthy December.

Rev Susan – Vicar

December 2025

7th December Advent 2	Smeeth 9:30am Communion	Mersham 9:30	Brabourne 10am Christingle	Monks Horton Advent Evensong 6pm	Mersham Carol Service 7:30pm
Friday 12th December					Stowting Carol service 6pm
14th December Advent 3	Mersham 9:30am Communion	Smeeth 9:30	Sellindge Communion for all 11am	Smeeth 5pm Carols Lees Court	The Five Bells, Brabourne 6pm Carols
Friday 19th December				Sellindge 6pm Carols on the green	
21st December Advent 4	Smeeth 9:30am Communion	Mersham 9:30 Christingle	Brabourne 11am Communion	Mersham 3pm Bringing light to loss	Brabourne 6pm 7 Lessons & Carols
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	Mersham 3pm Crib Service	Smeeth 4pm Crib Service	Sellindge 5pm Crib Service	Monks Horton 6pm Carols	Smeeth 11:30pm Midnight Communion
25th December Christmas Day	Mersham 9:30am Christmas Day Communion AD Darren	Brabourne 9.30am Christmas Day Communion	Stowting 11:00am Christmas Day Communion		