

SELLINGE VILLAGE NEWS

JANUARY 2026

Edition 741



MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION THAT MATTERS!

VOLUNTEER & HELP YOUR COMMUNITY IN 2026

 **New Year, New Goals — Start the year by making a real difference!**
If you're looking for a positive resolution, why not volunteer to support safer streets in our village?

 **JOIN COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH** - Help address one of our biggest local concerns — speeding.

As a volunteer, you'll work with others in the village to:

- Monitor traffic alongside trained team members
- Help encourage safer driving
- Contribute to a safer environment for children, pedestrians, and cyclists

 **A small commitment can make a big impact!**
Meet new people, support your neighbourhood & take pride in making our roads safer

 **READY TO GET INVOLVED?**
Email: admin@sellinge-pc.gov.uk
Phone: 01303 813271

**S and K Creations
Food & Craft Fair
2026**

**Sellinge Village
Hall TN25 6JY**

**Sun 8th March
Sun 28th June
Sun 27th Sept
Sun 15th Nov
Sun 6th Dec**

**12 midday - 4pm
Free Entry**

SELLINGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

The next meeting of your Parish Council on **Tuesday January 13th** 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@sellinge-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 SELLINGE ****

***** A HAPPY NEW YEAR *****

THE BEACON ON SELLINGEE LEES

The Parish Council was pleased that the lighting of the Beacon and the Carol service was such a well-attended event, no one was counting, but apparently there were around 80 or so people there.

Like other Parish Councils in the area, this event was sponsored by the Parish Council, and I would like to thank those residents who offered to pay.

Having read some of the comments, on Face Book, I thought I would put everyone in the picture as to how and why the Beacon is on The Lees and its position.

When the Taylor Wimpey application arrived around 2011 – after a lot of consultation meetings – residents asked for various items, one of which was a Beacon.

Then, once the development had been completed and all the required legal stuff was finalised which was only earlier this year, and with the Parish Council having previously agreed to the requests of residents, the Beacon was organised.



Why there? people are asking, firstly it is the highest point on The Lees, where you would expect a Beacon to be and secondly putting it by the pond is very close to the underground High voltage cables that run under ground, and finally by having it closer to the road, would cause a distraction to drivers and children running around could inadvertently run in to the road.

The cost of this is being taken out of the Section 106 money that was donated to the Parish Council for the upkeep of The Lees, and can only been used for projects, maintenance and management of The Lees, so is not coming out of the Precept that shows up on your Council Tax bill each year.

In relation to the comment regarding dog poo bags, the dispenser is not being used, this due to the fact that within a few hours after the 150 bags are placed in it they are all gone!

I hope I have answered



most of your questions, but if you still have queries then please do not hesitate to contact me on clerk@sellingege-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank the Scouts for cooking and serving the burgers and hotdogs, Sarah Parish for backing such lovely cakes and Rev Susan for arranging the music and words for the carols and other Christmas songs.

I have perhaps missed out some helpers but you all know who you are, so a big thank you to you as well.

Linda Hedley – Proper Officer & Clerk to the Parish Council



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

MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR JANUARY 2026

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 **January 15th & 29th**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **January 16th & 30th**



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

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

Government Re-organisation – A lot of time has been spent on considering Local Government Re-organisation. There was no overall consensus of the 14 Council leaders. At Folkestone & Hythe District Council, each Councillor was given the opportunity to vote on their preferred model and the result was overwhelmingly in favour of 3a - which was then ratified by Cabinet and taken forward by the Leader. Model 3a is the three unitary option consisting of Dartford, Gravesham, Medway and Swale in the north; Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells in the west and Ashford, Canterbury, Thanet, Dover and Folkestone and Hythe in the east. Ashford on the other hand put forward 4d as their preferred option. This would reorganise Kent and Medway into four new unitary councils but would divide Folkestone & Hythe into two. Other Kent Councils voted for different Models and these submissions were made to the Minister on 28 November. It will be Spring before we get a decision on how Kent and Medway will be organised.

Otterpool Park – I continue to question the Leader on Otterpool Park. We now understand there is another collaboration agreement with Homes England on setting up a joint Planning Group to finalise the reserve matters that are still outstanding. This apparently, runs until December 2026 so we will be watching closely!

Rural Prosperity Fund – in the recent round of allocations, in our Ward, the application from Wild & Wise Collectives at Bodsham to provide equipment to allow Kombucha business to upscale was successful. The fund is still open to expressions of interest but you will need to act fast as all projects must be completed and grants paid out by the end of March 2026.

Napier Barracks – The District Council has just been advised that all asylum seekers accommodated at Napier Barracks have now been moved on. The Barracks will now be handed back to the Ministry of Defence who will pass it on to the Developers.

If there is an issue you would like more information on, do please let me know.

**Wishing you all
a Peaceful and Successful New Year.**

SELLINGE 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.

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

I hope you all had a happy festive season and New Year.

Since Southern Water's Eastern Treatment Works released up to 10 tonnes of plastic beads into the sea, F&HDC have been closely monitoring the beaches along the coastline. Currently only a small quantity of beads has been found. The matter was raised at a recent meeting with town and parish councils where there was a presentation by Southern Water and the Environment Agency. On an unrelated issue, the beaches at

Dymchurch and Greatstone were given a poor bathing water quality rating and a 'No Swim' notice has been issued by the Environment Agency for these beaches.

A blueprint for a net zero district by 2041 has been unanimously backed by the council's cabinet.

The district-wide carbon plan sets out actions for the council, businesses, residents and groups to tackle the urgent challenges posed by climate change and achieve a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

The plan is due to be launched at an event in January 2026.

The Edwardian section of the Folca building in Folkestone has gone on the market. The space in the former Debenhams store is being marketed as suitable for a variety of uses. Great progress has been made with the Integrated Care Board to deliver the Health Centre to Folca 2. The council bought the Folca building in May 2020 and is continuing with plans to regenerate the Art Deco part facing Sandgate Road.

Ideas for topics to be discussed by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee are being welcomed.

To put forward suggestions visit folkestone-hythe.gov.uk/democracy/council-scrutiny and complete the online form or write to Committee Services at the Civic Centre before 3pm on Monday 26 January 2026.

The council's magazine for residents, District Today, has returned with an Autumn/Winter 2025 edition. The free 20-page magazine has been delivered to all households across the district. The content includes a look back on 2025, winter walk and cycling suggestions and key Christmas dates including household recycling and waste collections.

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

Kent and Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy Launched – DEFRA appointed KCC to lead in the production and management of the Strategy in 2023. The Strategy has been launched and sets out priorities for nature recovery and, through an interactive mapping portal, identifies actions and locations where the greatest contribution can be made. It is designed to help any organisation or individual take forward nature recovery in their area by providing the information and advice needed. Key priorities include tree planting to enhance air quality and protecting Kent's coastline with measures such as seagrass restoration, which has created habitats for seahorses and wintering Brent Geese.

Committee Restructuring – To reduce bureaucracy, duplication and costs, KCC is reducing its number of committees. The administration believes there are too many meetings, taking valuable time of Members and Officers. The changes to the committees will improve efficiency and make financial savings, whilst ensuring compliance with statutory requirements. Further savings from committees will be found in forthcoming months as efforts to reduce bureaucracy continue

Spatial Planning – In the government's English Devolution White Paper of December 2024, it set out the intention to introduce a new duty for all areas, regardless of the pace of devolution or local government reorganisation, to prepare a Spatial Development Strategy. This would transform the delivery of housing and economic growth, coordinating with the necessary infrastructure provision relating to transport, energy and water. From Spring 2026, the preparation of a Kent and Medway Spatial Development Strategy will be led by a new Strategic Planning Board. This will provide strategic planning framework that's been missing in Kent since the demise of County Structure Plans in 2011, enabling development prioritisation and investment in the County.

Playground Festival – A new festival designed to encourage play, imagination and creativity is launching in Kent in 2026, taking place between 22 and 31 May. The Playground Festival has been created for babies, young children and their families, involving immersive installations, workshops and playground sessions at 20 venues. There will be 150 events showcasing some of the most inspiring national and international work created for young audiences. Tickets can be booked via www.playgroundkent.co.uk/playground-festival

New Highways Contract – KCC has signed a new long-term contract with Ringway to maintain and improve Kent's roads, worth £50 million. The new contract will mean that residents will benefit from faster, more efficient repairs and maintenance, including potholes and drainage issues. The contract covers gritting, maintaining bridges and responding to emergencies. A key benefit of the new contract is that value for money for Kent taxpayers is sought, as the contract is designed to ensure efficiency, be transparent and provide visible results that Kent residents will see.

Moving Traffic Offences – KCC is inviting residents, businesses and road users to share their views on proposals to enforce moving traffic offences at certain key locations across the County. Yellow box junctions will be enforced via camera at one location in each of Ashford, Canterbury and Dover, in addition to a number in Maidstone. Comments should be sent to www.kent.gov.uk/mteconsultations

Finally, I would like to wish all residents of Elham Valley a peaceful and wonderful New Year.

THE SELLINGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – www.sellingesportsclub.co.uk



Saturdays and Sundays – Our full Menu is now being served plenty of choice, with Carvery on Sunday 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 February 7th at 9am Tables available book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319

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

Jan 4th – Away V Egerton Res
11th – Home V Saltwood AFC
18th – Home V Egerton Res
25th – Away V Hamstreet Res

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

Jan 11th – Away V Deal Town
25th – Home V Park Regis

Sellinge Ladies Football Club Under 15 mixed play Sundays in the Kent Girls/Ladies League Division 2 KO 10am

Jan 4th – Home V Canterbury Eagles
11th – Home V Fooths Cray Lionesses
18th – Away V Petts Wood Peregrines
25th – Away V East Kent Pearls

Feb 1st – Home V Punjab Utd



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 SELLINGE 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 – January 2026

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

Dear all, How long does your Christmas last, I wonder? Are you a decorations down by Boxing Day, can't wait to get it all over kind of person? Is the New Year the time for moving on from Christmas, or perhaps you pack Christmas away the day before you have to go back to work? Maybe you hold on to the glitter and baubles until Epiphany on the 6th of January? Or – do you wait till Candlemas on 2nd of February – at the end of 40 days of Christmas?

Of course, the story of Christmas doesn't end with the birth of a baby. Christians commemorate the visit of the Wise Men/Kings/Magi at Epiphany, and the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, as was required by Jewish Law – and then the rest of the Gospel story as we have it in the Bible unwinds through the year once again.

Jesus came to be "God with us", born as a baby, "day by day, like us he grew", until he became a man, taught about God, healed people, was executed, rose again from the dead and ascended to heaven. The message of the deep love of God for creation, including us human beings, that was brought into the world by that baby was confirmed by how he lived, died and is wonderfully with us still.

The message of Christmas remains with us always.

Do I keep my decorations up all year then? Well no. The decorations would drive me mad – and spoil the season next time – so for us the decorations come down at Epiphany, the 6th of January. I do leave the Nativity Scene up for a while longer to remind us that God is with us, even in the dark, damp, cold of the rest of our winter. I try to hold on to some of the feeling of peace and hope for the world that the season of Christmas reminds us of.

Whenever you take your decorations down, don't pack the life-giving, wonderful message into the boxes and put it in the loft till next year. I pray for each of you a Christmas that brings the love of God nearer to your hearts and your lives – and that you will take God with you into the New Year and transform your life.

Every blessing this New Year. Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs

January 2026

	Smeeth 9:30am	Mersham 9:30am	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
4th January (Epiphany)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship - Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
11th January (Baptism of Christ)	Christingle	Parish Communion				11am Communion
18th January (2nd Sunday of Epiphany)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
25th January (Conversion of Paul)	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Wednesday services on 7/1, 14/1 21/1, 28/1 at 9:30am			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			