

# SELLINGE VILLAGE NEWS

## FEBRUARY 2026

Edition 742



### [Sellinge Ladies Football Club](#)

With the help of the amazing Nick & Kerry at [Sellinge Sports & Social Club](#), we are hosting a race night this Saturday. All money raised will be donated to the pitch maintenance funds to help improve the condition of the football pitches at Sellinge. Please do come along, have a laugh, have a drink and help out the wonderful local community of Sellinge.

*Coffee & Company*

*At Sellinge Village Hall*

*Every Tuesday 9-1pm*

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



### **Coffee & Company**

will be back from their annual Winter Break on **Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>** in the Village Hall

### MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR FEBRUARY 2026

[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 **February 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**  
St Kathrines Cresent TN25 6FU.  
Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **February 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**



### 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.

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

## SELLINGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

The next meeting of your Parish Council on **Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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.

**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

### Government Re-organisation

Recently we had a briefing from the ex-Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council. He took us through the process of where we are now in terms of Local Government re-organisation up to vesting day and beyond. It looks likely from what we know and from what he says that current Members will be expected to do another year until May 2028: some will decide to stand for the Shadow Body which will be elected in May 2027.

**Storm Goretti** – The District Council worked closely with Kent County Council to re-open Sandgate Esplanade after strong and forceful winds overnight caused damage to the sea wall and railings and beach-huts. Diggers are clearing the back of the sea wall to allow water to drain from the road, while teams are resiting beach huts where possible and beginning to clear shingle from promenades. Many benches were blown away or destroyed; however, the Deputy Leader has confirmed that they will all be replaced.

**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 to December 2026 so we will be watching closely!

**Ward Grant** – I have allocated £500 to the Sellinge Football Clubs for work to improve the pitches and £355 to Sellinge Village Hall to replace the fencing.

**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.

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

The stabilisation work required above the play area in the Lower Leas Coastal Park in Folkestone is due to begin this month. The cliff will need to be shored up following a landslide last year. Once complete, the work on the fun zone's £750,000 refurbishment can begin. This will see new equipment and an exciting layout and is due to be ready for summer this year. Meanwhile, KCC have announced the funding has been found to commence works on the Road of Remembrance in Folkestone to clear the trees and repair the road that were damaged during the landslide that happened 2 years ago.

A skills programme to strengthen the local economy and support small business growth across the district has been launched. Independent businesses and hospitality venues as well as rural enterprises across the North Downs will receive support. As part of the Folkestone & Hythe District Council's newly-launched [High Streets Connect and Grow Rural initiatives](#), both are funded through the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund. There will be two complementary strands: the first focuses on helping high street businesses to adapt, grow and attract new customers and the second supports rural enterprises, makers, farm diversifications, home-based ventures to build business confidence, digital capability and sustainable growth

A new group of students is helping shape the district's future as members of the council's youth forum.

Young people from The Beacon, Brockhill Park, EKC Folkestone Junior College, Folkestone School for Girls, The Harvey Grammar School and The Marsh Academy visited the Civic Centre in December.

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The group learned about local government and discussed a variety of topics including solar farms, the refurbishment of the Lower Leas Coastal Park play area and the council's use of social media.

District Councillors agreed at the end of last year to reaffirm its commitment to local volunteers and community groups supporting residents. There was unanimous support for a motion brought to full council to continue to back the services helping people with cost of living issues.

If you know a community hero who dedicates their own time and skills on behalf of others, we want to hear about them. [The Folkestone & Hythe District Excellence in Volunteering Awards](#) celebrates the efforts of residents who go above and beyond to make residents' lives better and support communities across the district. Nominations are now open and include individual, group and environmental categories. We want to encourage as many people as possible to consider volunteering by sharing the stories of those already doing so, who gain as much from the experience as those their volunteering helps. The awards ceremony takes place on Thursday 4 June and all nominees will be invited to the event. The deadline for nominations is **Friday 17 April 2026**. Information on how to enter can be found at the [Kent Coast Volunteering website](#).

**KCC CLLR Christopher Hespe – (Reform UK) – Elham Valley – [christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk](mailto:christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk)**

#### **Council Tax**

For each of the past 12 years, the previous administration at KCC increased Council Tax by the maximum amount allowed, which is currently 5%. The new administration is breaking that mould and has announced an increase of 3.99% for 2026/27. Although the Reform-led Council inherited a dire financial position, prudent management of the finances has allowed the authority to stabilise finances. Although a greater reduction in the amount sought would have been ideal, the authority has to maintain its statutory services and ensure the budget is balanced and sustainable. The administration is working towards potentially making further reductions in the 'ask' for future years.

We inherited a £732 million debt, daily debt interest payments of £84 million, a £20.1 million overspend, £121 million savings target for the year and a ballooning Adult Social Care budget. In nine months of the new administration, £100 million of savings have been achieved, debt has been reduced by £67 million and nearly £40 million of future spend re-profiled, enabling the lower-than-expected Council Tax demand.

#### **International Rail**

KCC continues to lobby government and other stakeholders hard for the return of international stopping rail services to Ashford and Ebbsfleet. Further to KCCs major event some months ago, Ashford BC ran a local event in Ashford to further push the concept on 8 January.

#### **Supplier Conference**

KCC has produced its first commercial strategy, to ensure that it gets best value for residents from every pound spent and that Kent-based companies benefit from the annual £1.4 billion KCC procurement each year. In the past six months, there has been a significant growth in the number of Kent companies winning contracts. KCC is organising a Supplier Conference at The Showground, Detling on 27 January for suppliers to learn more about winning KCC contracts. To date, 600 have signed up to attend the free event.

#### **Community Wardens**

KCC has been expanding the number of Community Wardens and now enables Parish and Town Councils to pay for new posts. KCC would welcome discussions with any Parish or Town Council interested in exploring this further.

#### **Environment Tax on Foreign Lorries**

Kent's roads are damaged by large vehicles. KCC is pursuing vigorously the concept of charging foreign lorries being charged for use of Kent's roads. I'm happy to update via Parish newsletter as this develops.

#### **KCC Highways**

Since taking control of KCC in May 2025, 6,500 gullies have been drained and 35,000 potholes filled (already more than in the whole of last year). KCC Highways has recently been shortlisted for the 'most improved performance' award by the Local Government Association; although KCC is adamant that further improvements will always be sought, as it attempts to manage Kent's 5,500 miles of roads.

#### **Nuclear and Energy**

KCCs stance is not anti-solar, but anti solar developments on high grade agricultural land. KCC has been leading on work to secure new nuclear provision at Dungeness. This is a long-term project, but a high priority for KCC, which has had a series of meetings with Westminster and major companies.

There is significant support from the locality.



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



**Sundays – Carvery Day** – 12 Noon to 5pm – Booking advisable  
Takeaway and local delivery available.

**Wednesday Noodle Night** takeaway and local delivery available.

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

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

Open from 9am Sats and Suns 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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

**Feb** 1<sup>st</sup> – Away V Charing  
8<sup>th</sup> – Home V Ashford Spartans – **Division 3 Cup**.  
15<sup>th</sup> – Away V Hamstreet Res  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Home V Burton Grove Res



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

**Feb** 8<sup>th</sup> – Away V Ramsgate  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Away V Biddenden

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

**Feb** 1<sup>st</sup> – Home V Punjab Utd  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Away V Tunbridge Wells Foresters  
**March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Away V Deal Town Rangers – **U15 Tina Marshall Trophy**.

## Village Hall Weekly Events

			Registered Charity No. 302822
MONDAY	SUPERSTRIKERS	9.30am -10.30am	<b>Main Hall</b> <a href="http://www.super strikers.co.uk">www.super strikers.co.uk</a>
	RAINBOWS	4pm – 5pm	<b>Main Hall</b> 01303 812 297 (Term time)
	BROWNIES	5.15pm - 6.45pm	<b>Main Hall</b> 01303 812 297 (Term time)
	LINE DANCING	7.30pm – 9pm	<b>Main Hall</b> 07753 274 913
TUESDAY	COFFEE & COMPANY	9am – 12.30pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
	MOTHER & BABY GROUP	1.30pm – 3pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
	LINE DANCING	6pm – 7.30pm,	<b>Main Hall</b> 07989 210 449
WEDNESDAY	BABY MASSAGE/TUMMY TIME	10am12.00 Noon	<b>Durling Hall</b>
	PLAY GYM 0 – 6 mths	1pm - 2pm	<b>Durling Hall</b>
	L+S TABLE TENNIS -	afternoons	<b>Main Hall</b>
	BEES BODS	5.45pm – 6.45pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
	AEROBIC BODY BLAST	7pm - 8pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
THURSDAY	TINY TALK	10am – 11am	<b>Durling Hall</b>
	PILATES	9.30 – 10.45am	<b>Main Hall</b>
	PLAY GYM 6 – 12 months	Noon – 1pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
	PLAY GYM 12 months +	1.30pm – 2.30pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
	TAEKWONDO Various classes	5.15pm	<b>Main Hall</b>
FRIDAY	RUGBY TOTS	9.15am – 10.15am	<b>Main Hall</b>
	1st SELLINGE SCOUT GROUP CUBS	- 6 -7.30pm, BEAVERS - 6.00-7.15pm,	
	<b>Both Halls</b> SCOUTS -	7.30-9.00pm,	
	EXPLORERS 7.30—9.00pm. 01303 813 250.	<a href="mailto:1stsellindgesg@gmail.com">1stsellindgesg@gmail.com</a>	(Term time)

## Village Hall Monthly Events

TUESDAY	PARISH COUNCIL	2nd Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm <b>Durling Hall</b> – Parish Clerk 01303 813 271
WEDNESDAY	GET TOGETHER CLUB	2nd Wednesday of the month – 2pm t



**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 Vicar's letter – February 2026

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

Dear all – As we welcome February and winter is still definitely with us we are at last seeing some signs of light, and the odd early flower. It feels to me as if we have made it through the worst of winter. There is much happening in February with Valentine's Day, the beginning of Lent which thankfully this year don't coincide with each other. The other thing going on in February is the winter Olympics which are in Italy this time around. I love to watch the amazing tricks that the snowboarders can do and can't imagine the thousands of hours which have gone into being able to do something so skilfully. It used to be said that it took 10,000 hours to perfect a skill but now the suggestion is that it doesn't work like that. As someone who has just started learning the flute 10,000 hours seems a long way away, but it seems that idea is now definitely up for discussion and some innate talent might also be required which in itself may also be a problem for me. However, it has made me start to think about how I became good at things I do know how to do from driving to praying and I definitely think there is something in the idea of practice making perfect. So, this month as I watch the Olympic stars and we begin the annual process of Lent I will keep practising the flute, I will admire those who excel at their sport, and I will try to take time with God in prayer to help me get better at that too. What are you working on getting better at?

During Lent we are having a soup lunch in each church by turn on a Saturday to which all are welcome. Look out for the posters about which church is which Saturday and come along and join us.

With every blessing – Rev Susan

Additional note: I am away for the first two weeks of February. The parish office will be open from 1:30-5:30 on Monday and Wednesday each week.

### Services in the Stour Downs

#### February 2026

	Smeeth 9:30am	Mersham 9:30am	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
<b>1<sup>st</sup> February</b> (Candlemas)	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship - Iona</b>	<b>10am Family Service</b>		<b>6pm Evensong</b>	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> February</b> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Lent)	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>Parish Communion</b>				<b>11am Communion</b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> February</b> (Sunday next before Lent)	<b>Parish Communion</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>11am Communion</b>			
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)	<b>Morning Praise</b>	<b>Communion for all</b>		<b>11am Communion</b>		
<b>Wednesday</b> services on 4/2, 11/2 18/2, 25/2 at 9:30am please note 18/2 will be Ash Wednesday service			<b>9:30am Midweek Parish Communion</b>			