

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

FEBRUARY 2026

Edition 742



[Sellindge Ladies Football Club](#)

With the help of the amazing Nick & Kerry at [Sellindge 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 Sellindge.

Please do come along, have a laugh, have a drink and help out the wonderful local community of Sellindge 🏈🏆

Coffee & Company

*At Sellindge 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 10th** 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

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 **February 12th & 26th**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **February 13th & 27th**

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.



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 February 10th** 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.

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

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 re-siting 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 Sellindge Football Clubs for work to improve the pitches and £355 to Sellindge 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

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.

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

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

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 KCC's 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

KCC's 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 SELLINDGE SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – 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 7th 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 1st – Away V Charing

8th – Home V Ashford Spartans – **Division 3 Cup.**

15th – Away V Hamstreet Res

22nd – 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 8th – Away V Ramsgate

22nd – Away V Biddenden



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

Feb 1st – Home V Punjab Utd

22nd – Away V Tunbridge Wells Foresters

March 1st – Away V Deal Town Rangers – **U15 Tina Marshall Trophy.**

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	10am12.00 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	
THURSDAY	AEROBIC BODY BLAST	7pm - 8pm	Main Hall	
	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	
FRIDAY	TAEKWONDO Various classes	5.15pm	Main Hall	
	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 t



Sellindge Village Hall

Halls available for hire.
Meetings, Clubs, Parties,
Wedding receptions etc

01303 813250 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
1st February (Candlemas)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship - Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
8th February (2 nd Sunday before Lent)	Morning Praise	Parish Communion				11am Communion
15th February (Sunday next before Lent)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
22nd February (1 st Sunday of Lent)	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Wednesday services on 4/2, 11/2 18/2, 25/2 at 9:30am please note 18/2 will be Ash Wednesday service			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			