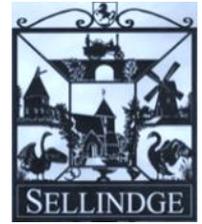


SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

MARCH 2026

Edition 743



MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR MARCH 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 **MARCH 12th & 26th**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **MARCH 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 SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB – AGM 2026 –

In the Clubhouse, in Swan Lane on Wednesday March 11th, at 7pm

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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 March 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

The Sports Trust is organising a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) pop-up shop at the Three Hills Sports Park, where local service providers connect with the community in an easily accessible setting. While children take part in fun and safe activities, parents and carers have the opportunity to speak directly with providers and gain valuable information about available support. This approach helps expand our outreach, decrease stigma, and improve referrals for family support. Activities start w/c 13 April and for further information email r.haden@thesportstrust.org

Proposals for Local Government Re-organisation in Kent & Medway are now out for Consultation –

This statutory consultation seeks views on the proposals that the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has received following the Secretary of State's invitation to councils in Kent and Medway to submit proposals for unitary local government for Kent and Medway. Folkestone & Hythe District Council put forward Model 3a as the preference for our District. This consultation can be accessed at [Proposals for local government reorganisation in Kent and Medway - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/proposals-for-local-government-reorganisation-in-kent-and-medway) The deadline for responses is 11.59pm on Thursday 26 March 2026. Once the consultation closes, the civil servants and ministers will consider everyone's responses alongside the evidence that has been presented to them. A decision on which option ministers have chosen is likely to be announced in the summer.

Otterpool Park – The Leader reported at the full Council Meeting on 28 January that Otterpool Park is at a critical stage: the meetings, discussions and communications with Homes England are intense and much is being discussed. He confirmed, Homes England are resourcing the project intensively and at a high level.

Road of Remembrance – I understand that KCC intend to finally commence the repair works to the Road of Remembrance and the cliff above it. The road has been closed for two years. As the District Council, we have no responsibility or obligation with regard to the works, but have agreed to make a small contribution.

My Community Voice - It is more than just a messaging service; it allows you to reply to the alerts sent to, share information and tell us about the issues affecting you. **Please do not contact neighbourhood officers to report crime.** Following feedback dog fouling, antisocial behaviour and Noise nuisance will be priorities for the next three months. If it's not an emergency, the easiest way to contact us is online. Your report will be sent direct to our control room where it will be reviewed by 2025/26 the same team who answer our calls - [Home Page - My Community Voice Kent](#)

Kent County Council is proposing an order on speed restrictions in Postling. The effect of the order would be to reduce the 30MPH speed limit and introduce a 20MPH speed limit zone on the following lengths of roads in Postling - CUCKOO LANE – From its junction with The Street for a distance of 140 metres in a south easterly direction. PILGRIMS WAY – From its junction with The Street and Staple Lane for a distance of 130 metres in a north westerly direction. STAPLE LANE - From its junction with The Street to its eastern property boundary with The Granary. THE STREET - For its entire length. Representations supporting or objecting to the proposed Order can be made via KCC website www.kent.gov.uk/highwaysconsultations

Ward Budget – my last contribution for 2025/26 is for £481 towards the new commercial front door with disabled access at the Sports & Social Club.

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Contact: Elaine.Martin@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

Concerted lobbying by F&HDC Green Councillors and local MP, Sojan Joseph, has resulted in Network Rail securing the Barking Goods Yards resulting as an intermodal hub allowing the transfer of freight and goods from both lorries and the National Rail Network on to European gauge wagons which will allow freight to move seamlessly into mainland Europe. This intermodal hub has the potential to remove 140,000 lorries per year from the M20 and is a significant move in reducing traffic on the M20.

Councillors will be considering funding proposals to help re-open Folkestone Sports Centre pool and make much-needed improvements to the council-owned Hythe Pool. A one-off £2.4million grant to help The Sports Trust to refurbish the Folkestone pool, changing rooms and pool plant machinery is being considered. Once this work is carried out, attention could then turn to Hythe Pool.

Work on a key aspect of the £20m project regenerating Folkestone town centre has begun. A new “green heart” is replacing the former Folkestone bus station at Bouverie Square with a more inviting space being created, including an area for play. The work is part of the Folkestone – A Brighter Future programme. This is being largely funded by central government after the district council successfully bid for a share of what was known as Levelling Up investment.

The search is on for volunteers who go that extra mile in dedicating their time and skills for others in the district. Nominations are open for the [Folkestone & Hythe Excellence in Volunteering Awards](#) run on behalf of the council by Kent Coast Volunteering.

Awards will be presented in June and the deadline for nominations is Friday 17 April.

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

The Roads – Many of the road surfaces are not up to the standard that we would like to see. This is a national problem this year. There has been under-investment in Kent roads for too many years, primarily due to insufficient grant from central government. However, KCC has committed a record investment of £67 million for road repairs this financial year and has a new contractor appointed from April (Ringway). Potholes tend to be worse in Winter and salting the roads causes more to appear (although salting reduces death, injury and accidents on the roads, so a balance has to be struck). Electric vehicles are heavier than internal combustion engine cars, and this is having a growing impact on road surfaces, too. The filling of potholes in the Winter tends to concentrate on the ‘emergency’ ones, as different temperature of road and filling tarmac can lead to new repairs not lasting well and having to be repaired again soon after.

KCC Budget

On 12 February KCC approved its budget for 2026/27. The budget setting followed the largest consultation response in KCCs history. The highlights of the budget are as follows:

- Net spend of £1.64 billion
- No service cuts to core services
- Increased spending capacity for Adult Social Care of 11%, Children’s Services of 7.7% and Growth, Environment and Transport of 5.2%
- No additional borrowings
- Net increase in reserves
- Debt will continue to reduce
- Continued funding for discretionary and community facilities eg no closure of libraries (previous administration was considering closing 34 libraries), country parks, cultural services, school crossing staff and community wardens.
- Council Tax rise of 3.99% (this is the first year in past 13 when KCC hasn’t charged the maximum amount).

Local Government Reorganisation

The government consultation on the five options for local government structures is underway and will end on 26 March 2026. Residents are encouraged to submit their views online via gov.org or Kent.gov.uk or at libraries. Kent County Council’s Option 1A is for a single Unitary authority with three Area Assemblies. This structure provides the strategic overview of Kent, would stand up for the history and heritage of the County, provide economies of scale and not face the difficulties and significant costs of disaggregating people-based services. The Area Assemblies would manage place-based and facility services. KCCs option is more than £440 million less expensive than some other options put forward to government, and with the government not having suggested that costs of reorganisation would be met by it, this is believed to be the option that would save Community Taxpayers the most money, whilst being both locally focused and strategic. We should hear the government’s decision in July 2026.



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

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 March 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

March 8th – Away V Ashford Dynamo

18th – Away V Charing Sunday

22nd – Home V Radnor Park Rangers

29th – Away V Bromley Green Res

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

March 8th – Away V Park Regis

15th – Away V Ramsgate

22nd – Home V Faversham Town

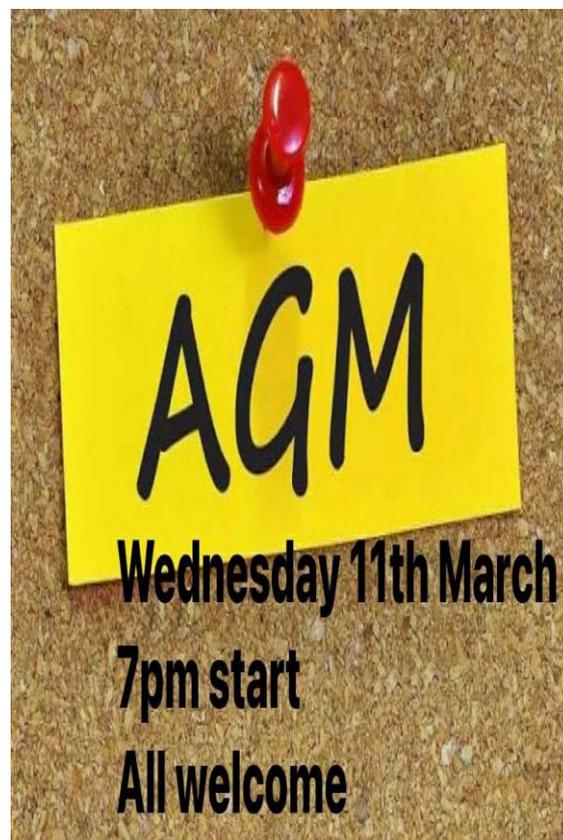


Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 15 mixed play Sundays in the Kent Girls/Ladies League Division 2 KO 10am

March 8th – Away V Deal

15th – Away V Margate Youth

29th – Home V Roseacre Raiders





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 – February 2026

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

Dear all,

We are now in the middle of Lent which is the forty days before Easter which are there to remind us of the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness at the beginning of his ministry. There are lots of things you can do in Lent. Some people give things up whether it is chocolate, alcohol or meat or even playing computer games! Others take things up as Smeeth church does which you can read more about below. Some choose to do something for a charity or give to one each day. Others take time away from normal things to read a particular book, and Christians often choose to spend more time with the Bible or in prayer. As a wider parish including all six churches in our parish, we will be offering Lent Lunches on Saturdays in Lent the final one will be at Sellindge church on 28th March between 12 and 2pm why not come along , we are also having our usual thought for the day email written by members of the congregation. If you are interested in these things keep an eye on our Facebook or drop me an email.

Following previous Lent challenges Smeeth Church are again this year making a Pew runner for Smeeth church but also attempting to identify 400 species of plants, insects and animals around the parish which includes Sellindge so if you identify anything unusual please could you drop me an email – with a picture would be even better. We are hoping to help each other realise the rich diversity of the natural world we have around us. We will also be actively tracking the swifts which come to a couple of our churches and Smeeth church now has nesting boxes for them in the tower. On 29th March we will have the donkeys at Brabourne for Palm Sunday (thank you Joanne). We will be walking from the Five Bells pub to the church leaving at 9:15 ish and you are welcome to join us whether you stay for the service or not.

Whatever you choose whether it is because you believe in God or not it is always good to take a bit of time to take stock, to look around and look within and reflect. If you do believe in God then take the time to prepare for Easter. With every blessing Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs
March 2026

| | Smeeth 9:30am | Mersham 9:30am | Brabourne | Stowting | Monks Horton | Sellindge |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1st March (2 nd Sunday of Lent) | Parish Communion | Morning Worship - Iona | 10am Family Service | | 6pm Evensong | |
| 8th March (3 rd Sunday of Lent) | Morning Praise | Parish Communion | | | | 11am Communion |
| 15th March (Mothering Sunday) | Parish Communion | Morning Worship | 11am Communion | | | |
| 22nd March (5 th Sunday of Lent) | Morning Praise | Communion for all | | 11am Communion | | |
| 29th March (Palm Sunday) | | | 9:30am Parish Communion Palm Sunday | | | |
| 4/3, 11/3, 18/3, 25/3 Mid-week communion 9:30am | | | 9:30am Midweek Parish Communion | | | |

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