

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

APRIL 2026

Edition 744



MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR APRIL 2026

www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries/visiting-a-library/mobile-libraries

Email ashfordlibrary@kent.gov.uk Tel 03000 413 131

Lay By on A20 at the bottom of Swan Lane.

Thursdays – 9.15am to 9.45am on **APRIL 9th & 23rd**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **APRIL 10th & 24th**

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.



Kent Libraries



Concerned About Speeding in Your Area?



You can help make our roads safer.

If speeding traffic worries you, why not join your local **Community Speedwatch Group**? Just **1–2 hours a month** can make a real difference.

Community Speedwatch is a national initiative supported by **Kent Police** and police forces across the UK. You won't be alone — **10,500+ volunteers** are already helping to keep their communities safe.

👉 How to Get Involved

1. Visit www.communityspeedwatch.org
2. Click **Register** (top of the page)
3. Select **Join Existing Group**
4. Choose **Kent Police Force – Folkestone – Sellindge**
5. Complete the registration form and follow the instructions sent by email

💙 Help Make a Difference in Your Community

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 April 14th** 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.

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

More than 90 people attended workshops to help in the first stage of a possible bid for Folkestone to become the UK's first Town of Culture. The workshop discussions and feedback will greatly assist the council to write an expression of interest in putting the town forward for the accolade. If successful, the next stage would be the preparation of a full bid to gain the prestigious title and £3 million to fund a programme of cultural celebrations during 2028.

Free district-wide programmes are running to help businesses adapt, attract customers and grow. Free mentoring and interactive workshops are being offered as ideal for high street retailers, cafes, hospitality venues and visitor facing independents. The rural programme will empower creative makers and diversification projects across Romney Marsh, the North Downs and rural communities. They are ideal for farm enterprises, rural producers, accommodation providers, home based makers and start ups.

More information by emailing economy@folkestone-hythe.gov.uk

F&HDC's 2026/27 budget has been approved. While it provides £20m to be spent on key services supporting residents across the district, there is also a strong focus on the future. The budget is supported by a 2.99% increase in the district council's portion of council tax (equivalent to approximately 17p a week for a Band D property). The council is responsible for collecting council tax but 75% of the money is distributed to other services e.g. Police, Kent Fire and Rescue.

Folca 2, the Art Deco section of a former Debenhams department store, will be subject to a range of improvement works ahead of its repurposing, starting Monday 9 March. Over six months the structure will be made watertight and ready for use. The CO₂ emissions of the building will be reduced by over 100,000kg per year.

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

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

Budget – the FHDC budget was set at the full Council Meeting held on 25 February. My group voted against the budget as we felt borrowing £6m to improve the Hythe Swimming Pool was not a sensible decision. Whilst the Conservative group is fully supportive of providing a pool in Hythe, it questions the wisdom of spending this large amount of money on an ailing pool which has already cost residents substantial sums annually simply to patch it and keep it open with no income stream fully supporting it. We feel this funding, together with S106 monies from the Nickolls Quarry development, should be put towards a new facility that could create additional income to help with running costs and for future sustainability. However, this could all be changed under Local Government re-organisation when Folkestone & Hythe become part of a large Unitary Administration. We should know the government’s decision on who we will merge with some time during the summer. I attended a Working Group on 24 March to find out and discuss issues facing the District Council.

Otterpool Park – As I understand it Homes England have contributed £2m to the project under the current collaboration agreement. I have gathered from the Budget that the District Council will match this amount. I continue to ask questions on this project and I am looking forward to hearing the outcome of this collaboration agreement.

My account – My account is a good way of reporting issues to the Council. There is a long list of issues that can be reported in this way, for example fly tipping, missed bin, anti-social behaviour, noise nuisance, dangerous dog etc If you have not registered go to www.folkestone-hythe.gov.uk and click on My account at the top right hand corner

Independent Custody Visitors - The ICV Scheme is a statutory, volunteer-led programme that helps ensure people held in police custody are treated fairly, with dignity, and informed of their rights. Volunteers make unannounced visits to custody suites and play a vital role in safeguarding some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. Applications are welcomed from people of all backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences. If you’d like to give back, support your community, and help promote transparency in policing, this could be the role for you. Applicants must be at least 18 years old to apply. Find out more and to apply, please visit kent-pcc.gov.uk/icv

Sandgate Road Car Park – the pilot scheme of using the ANPR system of parking will be discontinued as from 31 March 2026. The scheme caused long queues after shows in the Leas Cliff Hall and also attracted vandalism and antisocial behaviour. As of 1 April 2026, it will back to being a ‘pay and display’ car park.

Ward Grants – the 2025/26 scheme is now closed and will re-open for 26/27 at the end of May.

I have attended the AGM of the Sellindge Sports & Social Club and the Monitoring Day for Govenors’ at Sellindge Primary School which was a very enjoyable day, the children were enthusiastic and delightful. We are fortunate in having an excellent Primary School in our Village.

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT RENEWAL

A new planning collaboration agreement has been signed aimed at supporting and accelerating the delivery of Otterpool Park Garden Town. This scheme will deliver 8,500 high-quality homes alongside the supporting infrastructure to create a sustainable and successful new community.

Folkestone & Hythe District Council and Homes England – the government’s housing and regeneration agency – have signed an agreement focussed on securing planning permission for the current scheme.

The collaboration gives the council access to the additional skills and expertise necessary to successfully complete the high-quality scheme and attract the level of investment required to deliver at this scale. The agreement is time limited until December 2026.

Council Leader Cllr Jim Martin said: “I am pleased that our partnership with Homes England endures and that both organisations continue to believe in a bright future for Otterpool Park.”

Chair of Otterpool Park LLP, Paula Hirst said: “Otterpool Park is an ambitious scheme and I’m delighted that Homes England have reaffirmed their commitment to partner with us to move our plans forward towards delivery.’

Charlotte O’Mahony, Director of Projects at Homes England said: “This Collaboration Agreement marks a further important milestone in our shared commitment to unlock the full potential of Otterpool Park. By working closely with

Folkestone & Hythe District Council, we look forward to continuing the positive momentum and strengthening the foundations needed to deliver high quality homes, infrastructure and community benefits at pace”.

Otterpool Park LLP, set up in May 2020 by Folkestone & Hythe District Council to deliver the project, will continue to have a role in leading collaboration activity under the direction of the council.

To discover more about Otterpool Park please visit www.otterpoolpark.org

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

Local Government Reorganisation – The government’s public consultation ended on 26 March 2026 and it is anticipated that the shape of local government in Kent will be announced in early July. KCC strongly believes that ‘Option 1A’ is the best for the County, involving a single Unitary authority with three Area Assemblies. This would provide the strategic capability; avoid costly and disruptive disaggregation of ‘people-based ‘ services such as Adult Social Care and SEND; provide local level services, and be significantly less expensive than all the other options. Option 1A is £459 million less expensive than one of the other options being put forward by district councils, and currently there is no indication that central government would meet those costs. KCC is concerned that the costs of local government reorganisation would fall on the local Council Taxpayers. You will find all options from Kent detailed on the Kent Leaders’ website and on the KCC website.

School Places – 96% of Kent pupils have been offered one of their preferred secondary schools for September 2026; that is 17,941 pupils – an increase of 304 children from the past year.

Trading Standards Alert – Please be aware that Trading Standards has received reports of doorstep criminals in East Kent, intimidating residents into paying for gutter clearance and online investments.

Kent Film Office – The Kent Film Office has just celebrated its 20th anniversary of supporting film and TV in Kent. Over this period, £85 million of increased investment has been generated; it has supported hundreds of placements into the industry and strengthened Kent’s growing creative sector. Its work continues to bring jobs, skills and fresh opportunities to local people, whilst promoting Kent’s heritage, coast and countryside on screen.

Playground Festival – KCC is organising a programme of creative activities for babies and young people between 22 and 31 May 2026, involving 150 events at 20 venues, primarily libraries and community hubs. For more information, visit www.playgroundkent.co.uk

Kent and Medway Business Fund – The Fund, which helps local businesses to grow, innovate and create jobs, is open for applications. Since November 2025, 17 new loans with a total value of £2 million have been issued. Details can be found on the Web.

Kent and Medway Growth Hub – The Hub provides support to businesses as they grow, adapt and plan for the future. In the first three quarters of 2025/26, the Hub supported 1,106 businesses and gave targeted support to 770 of them. Businesses are given practical tools to help them succeed. Recent workshops organised have been on digital marketing, artificial intelligence in business and starting a business.

Visit Kent and Invest Kent (formerly Locate in Kent) – Invest Kent provides guidance on property, talent, supply chains and local networks. Visit Kent has resumed its active marketing to encourage visitor footfall across the County. Spring will see the launch of free access to business and marketing support for tourism bodies (see VisitKent website for details).

SELLINDGE BOWLS CLUB

Sellindge Bowls Club have been busy over the closed season redecorating the club house following a grant from KCC and now look forward to welcoming existing and new members for the new season.

Free coaching is available during May all you need is flat shoes, equipment is provided.

Contact Andy 0796 450 930 for details

SELLINDGE THINK BOWLS IS A CASUAL GAME? THINK AGAIN.

BOWLS

Club.

- Competitive and Social Matches
- Represent Town, County & Beyond
- Social Events All Year Round
- Fun, Friendly Community

STILL GOT THAT COMPETITIVE SPIRIT?
WANT A NEW CHALLENGE?
BOWLS COULD BE YOUR NEXT SPORT

SELLINDGE BOWLS CLUB

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY
FREE TRIAL SESSIONS

The poster features several images: a group of people playing bowls on a green, a group of people socializing at a table, and a group of people playing bowls on a green. The background is yellow with blue and red accents.



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 April 4th 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

April 5th – Away V Bromley Green Res

12th – Away V Egerton Res

19th – Home V Burton Grove Res

26th – Home V Egerton Res – **Division 3 CUP**

Sellindge Ladies Football Club

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

April

12th – Home V Folkestone

Invicta

15th – Away V Deal Town

26th – Home V Biddenden



Sellindge Ladies Football Club Under 15 mixed

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

April 12th – Home V Foots Cray Lionesses

19th – Away V Tunbridge Wells Foresters



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 – April 2026

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

Dear all

Easter is a time to think about new life and the new creation that Jesus created for us all on the cross. So, what might be “new life” - is it about letting go of something inhibiting you, or what is it that you might seek to find new life in taking up something new? I have recently taken up the flute which is lovely and frustrating all at the same time but one of its advantages is that it doesn’t allow you to think about other things at the same time so it a good break from everything else. Maybe your new thing could be coming along to one of our Easter events or services. From concerts to egg hunts, easter garden shows to services of contemplation we have something for everyone, and everyone is always welcome.

As we begin this month, we welcome the brighter evenings now the clocks having changed and start the month with a mid-week concert in Brabourne church - Ashford School Choir and guitar group on 1st April, that is just the beginning of our services in Holy Week.

On Maundy Thursday the 2nd April we remember the institution of Holy Communion at a service in Mersham at 7pm. This commemorates the Last Supper and the night Jesus was arrested.

On Good Friday we begin with a Walk of Witness in Sellindge which begins at the Village Hall and walks to the church remembering Jesus walk to Golgotha the hill on which he was crucified. We stop periodically to tell the next part of the story and end up in the church with tea and hot cross buns. In the afternoon in Smeeth we have an hour at the foot of the cross where we remember the crucifixion, this is a quiet service which we leave in silence while we contemplate Jesus’s death and what he gave for us.

Easter Saturday 4th is Mersham Easter Egg Hunt 10am -12noon and at Monks Horton we have an Easter Garden Display Competition.

Easter Sunday sees us celebrate with a communion service celebrating the resurrection. There is a service in every church on starting in Sellindge at 8am then Smeeth at 9am, Mersham at 9:30am, Brabourne at 10am, Stowting at 11am and rounding off the day with evensong at Monks Horton at 6pm with an option to stay for communion for those who would like it.

If that sounds like a lot, it is but it is one of the two biggest festivals in the Christian calendar.

One that means a huge amount to us as Christians as we remember the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us.

With every blessing, Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs - April 2026

	Smeeth	Mersham	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
2nd April Maundy Thursday		7pm Maundy Thursday Communion				
3rd April Good Friday	Hour at the foot of the Cross 3pm					10am Walk of Witness from Village Hall to Church
5th April Easter Day	Parish Communion 9am	Holy Communion 9:30am (Rev Ian Campbell)	10am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion	6pm Evensong With Holy Communion	8am Holy Communion
12th April (2 nd Sunday of Easter)	Morning Praise	Parish Communion				11am Communion
19th April (3 rd Sunday of Easter)	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
26th April (4 th Sunday of Easter)	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Mid-week communion 10:30 1/4 9:30am 8/4, 15/4, 22/4, 29/4			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			

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