

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

MAY 2026

Edition 745



SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

**THE CHAIRMAN INVITES
RESIDENTS OF SELLINDGE
TO THE ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING**



**ARRIVING AT 6.00PM FOR
A 6.30 START**

**IT IS BEING HELD IN THE VILLAGE
HALL**

ON TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026

An agenda will be published |
when we have confirmation or our speakers

Stephen Parish

01/05/2026

signed

Date

**SELLINDGE
SOCIAL
OPEN DAY**
**SAT 23RD MAY
12-5**
LIVE MUSIC, STALLS, AND INFLATABLES
FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE
**TENNIS, BOWLS AND
FOOTBALL OPEN FOR ALL**
GREAT FREE FAMILY FUN DAY!

Think you've seen an Asian Hornet? Report it!



Report through the Asian Hornet Watch app or www.bit.ly/asianhornetreport



Animal & Plant Health Agency

Asian Hornet – Spring is now here, time to look out for Queen Asian Hornets, who will be coming out of hibernation from sheds and other outbuildings, so keep an eye open. Although no sightings were reported in Sellindge last year. There were sighting in our close neighbour village Lympne.

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

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 May 12th** 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

Folkestone & Hythe District Council is to contribute £236,000 towards the work required to reopen the Road of Remembrance. KCC have agreed a fully designed technical solution to stabilise the cliff and re-open the road safely. KCC is currently hoping work will start from May. It is predicted the project will take a year to complete once underway.

On The 28th April F&HDC heard that KCC had granted permission for the Waste Water Treatment construction to take at Otterpool Park. This is a very positive step along the way.

F&HDC and Homes England have agreed a new collaboration agreement focused on securing outline planning permission for the current scheme at Otterpool Park. It is hoped that visible construction activity will begin in 2028. This includes roads, utility cables and enabling works, on land close to Westenhanger Station, before homes themselves start rising. A much-needed dedicated wastewater treatment plant is awaiting KCC planning approval. The wastewater treatment plant is needed, because it cleans the East Stour and is viewed as a very favourable contribution to the Stodmarsh problem.

F&HDC agreed a £2.4m grant to The Sports Trust, to enable the reopening of swimming facilities at Folkestone Sports Centre. The grant will go towards funding essential work including pool and changing room renovation, the addition of solar panels and repairs to the flat roof. Once open again the council is hoping to take forward the planned refurbishment of Hythe Pool.

The North Downs Forum, a group of residents from the North Downs area, held a very productive meeting in Stelling Minnis Village Hall at the beginning of the month. The Forum is open to any residents in the area; there is no need to be a Parish Councillor or part of a community group.

We meet approximately every two months at different venues, alternating between ND West and ND East. One of the things we decided was that we would try to forward plan with dates for the meetings for the next year. I'll let you know when we have them.

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 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

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

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

Otterpool Park – The recently signed collaboration agreement with Homes England was reported at the last full Council Meeting. This agreement lasts until December 2026. It was also said that one of the options to buy additional land had been executed by Homes England. However, detailed planning permission and planning for the Waste Water Treatment plant still need to be obtained.

Road of Remembrance – The Council has agreed to contribute £236,000 towards the work required to reopen the Road of Remembrance. The total cost is expected to be about £5 m.

Folkestone Sports Centre – A £2.4m grant which will enable the reopening of swimming facilities at Folkestone Sports Centre has been supported. Cabinet members have endorsed The Sports Trust's scheme to revitalise the Radnor Park Avenue site – agreeing to fund essential work including pool and changing room renovation, the addition of solar panels and repairs to the flat roof. Unfortunately, just recently I was very disappointed to hear about the vandalism that had taken place. It is certainly not what we want or expect, especially an organisation trying to open a swimming pool that's so desperately needed in the district.

Hythe Swimming Pool – At the full Council Meeting on 1 April I asked about any planned (or unplanned) urgent works required for Hythe Pool prior to its closure for redevelopment or refurbishment. This was because there was a problem with water getting behind the pool lining and people had mentioned this to me. I was told that the pool lining leak had been resolved and that there will be routine maintenance but no major works planned.

Local government reorganisation — what a mess it is. There is so much work for our officers. I know it feels never-ending, and things are changing all the time. We are now waiting for the outcome on who we might partner with. From what we are hearing about Surrey, it could be anyone — it could be all over the place. We could even find ourselves paired with Swale, and what do we really have in common with Swale? But we will have to wait and see. There is still so much work to do. And when July comes, I believe the District Council will have about two weeks to organise the different work streams — the 11 groups that will be or have already been established to take forward some of that work

I attended the Sellindge Sports & Social Club AGM in April – Membership is now due for 2026 and can be paid at the bar. The Club is looking for people who would be interested in joining the Committee – and there are opportunities for taking on some responsibilities, for example to submit bids for funding streams. There is also a call for dogs to be kept on leads at all times and to avoid the football pitches – please also pick-up after your dog! There is an Open Day on Saturday 23 May so come along and see what Clubs and facilities are on offer, enjoy the music and the food.

MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR MAY 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 **MAY 7th & 21st**

St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU.

Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **MAY 8th & 22nd**



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

Kent County Councillor Annual Report for Parish and Town Councils. 14 April 2026

With many Parish Councils in Elham Valley (there are 16!) holding their annual meetings around this time, it may be opportune to reflect on my first year as a County Councillor.

My role is to ensure good quality services are provided at County and local level, whilst representing the 20,000 residents of Elham Valley. I have been welcomed in so many places, and I would like to thank you for that. The County Council is the largest in England, is hugely complex and has a net spend of approximately £1.6 billion. I will write a future newsletter outlining the breadth and reach of KCC, but for the time being you may be interested to hear what the first year of the new administration at County Hall has achieved:

Money – We inherited a dreadful financial position from the previous administration, but in the year we have reduced debt by £114 million and debt interest paid by £3,362 per day. We managed to set a Council Tax increase lower than 86% of County, Metropolitan and Unitary Councils in England. Across the year, we made £115 million savings and re-prioritised future spend of £39.5 million.

A budget for 2026/27 has been set with no extra borrowings, a net increase in reserves, and increased spending for Adult Social Care, Children's Services, Environment, Highways and Transport.

Putting Kent First – For Local Government Reorganisation, we devised an option for local government to save Kent taxpayers £450 million over 10 years.

We produced ‘Reforming Kent’; a plan setting out Kent’s priorities.

The Council scrapped the ‘Climate Emergency Declaration’ and subsequent need to spend and achieve Net Zero by 2030. We declared an ‘Illegal Migration Emergency’ in Kent to highlight cost and safety; and we campaigned for new Nuclear provision at Dungeness; International rail services to reopen at Ashford and Ebbsfleet; and began exploration of establishing an Environment Tax for foreign lorries.

Saving Services – We overturned proposals to close 34 Libraries, close Country Parks, lose 35 Community Wardens, discontinue with School Crossing Staff and close four Household Waste Centres, which had all been threatened by the previous administration.

Education Services – We struggled with the increasing cost of special educational needs, and reducing costs of home to school transport proved to be an ongoing problem. But overall, 98% of Early Years settings were deemed ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted, and 96% of pupils obtained a place at one of their preferred schools.

Businesses – We were keen to support Kent businesses, so we produced Kent’s first Commercial Strategy, provided enhanced support for 500 Kent supplier companies, and awarded £55 million more value of contracts to Kent companies. More than 1,100 businesses were assisted via Kent and Medway Growth Hub.

Roads – Like all areas in the UK, our roads suffered during the ‘freeze/thaw’ of Winter. The surfaces were patched on a temporary basis, but we can usually only provide a good repair in dryer weather. We spent a record amount on pothole repairs (£67 million) and filled in the region of 50,000 potholes, which is a significant increase on previous years. We re-tendered for a new contractor, and Ringway will commence in May 2026. The heavy rainfall posed drainage problems, particularly in Elham and Ottinge, although we did manage to clear more than 85,000 gullies across the County. Significant road improvements were made during the year, including Spitfire Way in Hawkinge, the High Street in Etchinghill and the B2086 (Stone Street) near Petham and Stanford.

Other Services – We carried out nearly 7,000 weddings and civil ceremonies, welcomed 2.7 million visitors to libraries and 1.2 million to country parks. Some 99.6% of municipal waste was diverted from landfill and the Council dealt with well over 650,000 tonnes of waste.

Member Community Grants – Grants were issued to a number of organisations in Elham Valley, including MCA Dance for Special Needs; Hawkinge Community Events for Summer, Halloween and Christmas events; Elham Valley Cricket Club; Sellindge and District Bowls Club and Shepway Wanderers FC Disability.

The Next Year – I am committed to protecting valued services and ensuring your money is spent wisely. We will have tighter contracts and greater value for money, and I will seek to ensure that Elham Valley residents’ needs are addressed by KCC.

Chris Hespe

ROAD CLOSURES

Affinity Water - Temporary Road Closure - Stone Street, Stanford - 18th May 2026 (Folkestone and Hythe District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **Affinity Water**, it will be necessary to close part of Stone Street, Stanford, from 18th May 2026 with estimated completion by 26th August 2026.

Stone Street, Stanford, will be closed between the junctions of Kennett Lane and B2068 Stone Street, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

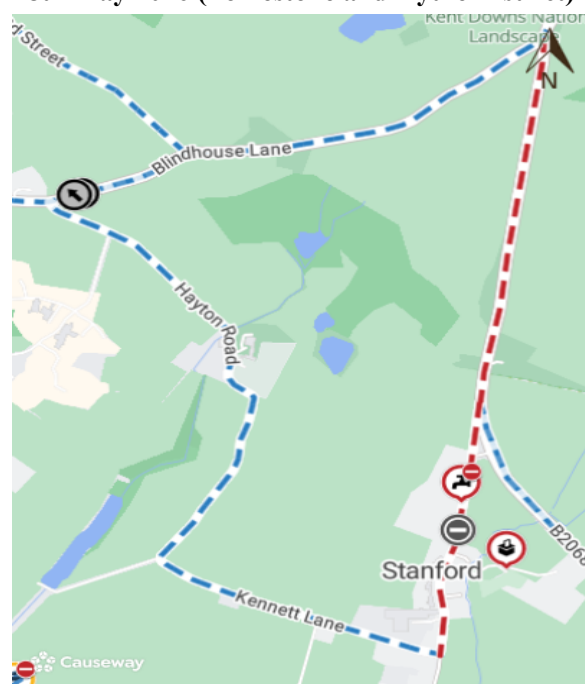
The alternative route for any through traffic is via Kennett Lane, Hayton Rd, Blind House Lane, Stone Street vice versa. Pedestrian access will be maintained during the works.

The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while allowing water works to be carried out, works are undertaken by Affinity Water.

For the most up to date information on these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=GB149358748>

For information regarding this closure please contact Affinity Water 03453 572 407, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

The Kent County Council Highways Helpline phone number is: 03000 418181



Trooli Ltd - Temporary Road Closure - Lypne Hill, Lypne - 26th May 2026 (Folkestone and Hythe District)

Due to works planned to be undertaken by **Trooli Ltd**, it will be necessary to close part of Lypne Hill, Lypne, from 26th May 2026 with estimated completion by 29th May 2026.

Lypne Hill, Lypne, will be closed the entire length, to the extent indicated by signs and barriers on site.

The alternative route for any through traffic is via West Hythe Road, Lower Wall Road, Botolphs Bridge Road, A259 Dymchurch Road, A259 Scanlons Bridge, A261 London Road, A261 Hythe Road, A20 Ashford Road, Stone Street, Aldington Road and vice versa.

Pedestrian access will be maintained during works.

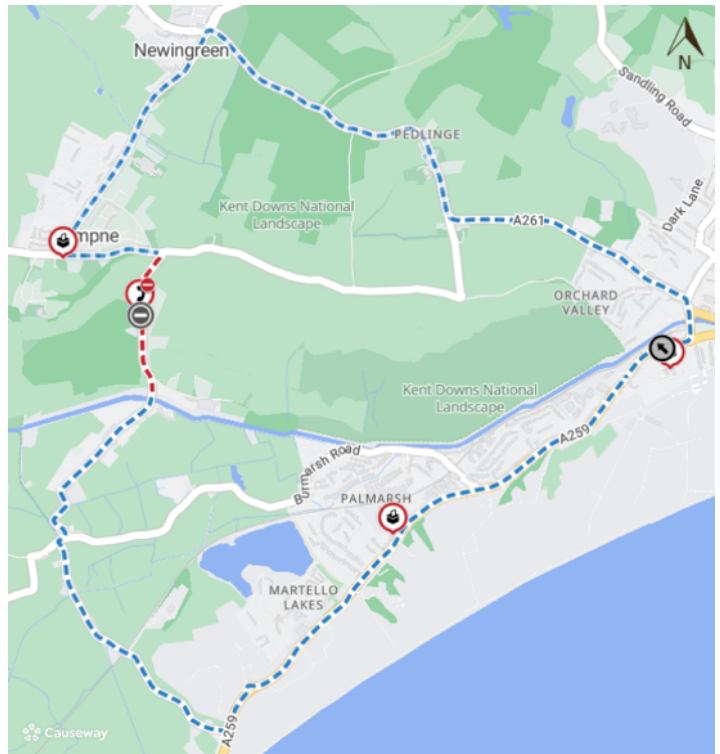
The closure is required for the safety of the public and workforce while allowing fibre works to be carried out, works are undertaken by Trooli Ltd.

For most up to date information these works please visit: <https://one.network/?tm=GB149390325>

For information regarding this closure please

contact Trooli Ltd, who will be able to assist with the scope of these works.

The Kent County Council Highways Helpline phone number is: 03000 418181



SPEEDING ON OUR ROADS?




YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

Join your local Community Speedwatch Group and help make Sellindge's roads



safer.

 Just as little as 1–2 hours a month

 Supported by Kent Police

 10,500+ volunteers nationwide

HOW TO JOIN

 Go to www.communityspeedwatch.org

 Click Register

 Select Join Existing Group

 Choose:

- Kent Police
- Folkestone
- Sellindge

Finish the form and follow the email instructions.

 LOCAL PEOPLE. REAL IMPACT.

****Slow drivers down.**

Protect your community.

Be part of the solution.**

Your local Speedwatch Coordinator & Kent Police



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 May 2nd at 9am Tables available book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319



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

May 3rd – Home V Park Regis

10th – Away V Biddenden

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

May 10th – Home V Punjab UTD

24th – Away V Canterbury Eagles

31st – Home V Roseacres Raiders



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

May 10th – Home V Ashford Spartans

17th – Home V Ashford Wanderers

Cocktails & Karaoke

Sat 9th May
7pm Start

Food & Other Drinks Available

Come Join the Fun!

CHARITY DARTS NIGHT

Raising money for

British Heart Foundation

In memory of

NEIL BROOKS

6th JUNE

★ **£15 ENTRY FEE TO INCLUDE RAFFLE TICKETS**

★ **£500 GUARANTEED FIRST PRIZE**

— **6PM START** —

★ Other games and competitions on the night

Let's Play, Have Fun and Make a Difference!

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 – May 2026

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

Dear all

I am hoping in May that the weather will be a bit more settled after the random warm days and early bluebells. Hopefully the long days of winter are gone the longer days bring a quiet but unmistakable promise of renewal. In our gardens, shoots push through the soil, flowers begin to nod gently in the breeze, and the lengthening days draw us outdoors once more. There is something deeply reassuring in this rhythm of the seasons—a reminder that life, even after the coldest and darkest times, finds a way to begin again.

For those of us in the life of the Church, late spring carries an even deeper resonance. It leads us through the joy of Easter, where we celebrate the resurrection of Christ—the ultimate sign of hope and new life. Just as the natural world is transformed before our eyes, so too we are invited to reflect on renewal within our own hearts and lives. East continues for 50 days until 24th May with Whitsun sometimes known as Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Spring encourages us to notice the small signs of grace: birdsong in the morning, sunlight filtering through new leaves, the simple pleasure of warmer air. These are gifts, freely given, that speak of God’s ongoing care for creation and for each one of us.

In the busyness of daily life, it can be easy to overlook these moments. Yet spring gently calls us to pause, to give thanks, and to take hope. Whatever burdens we may carry, this season reminds us that new beginnings are always possible.

May this month bring you peace, renewal, and a deep sense of God’s presence in both the ordinary and the extraordinary moments of life.

With every blessing, Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs - May2026

	Smeeth 9:30	Mersham 9:30	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
3rd May 5 th Sunday of Easter	Parish Communion	Morning Worship Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
10th May 6 th Sunday of Easter	Morning Praise	Parish Communion				11am Communion
14th May Ascension Day	7pm Ascension Day Communion					
17th May Sunday after Ascension Day	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
24th May Pentecost	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
31st May Trinity Sunday					9:30 Parish Communion	
Mid-week communion 9:30am 5/5,12/5,19/5,26/5			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			