

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

JULY 2026

Edition 747



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.

MOBILE LIBRARIES DATES and TIMES FOR JULY 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 bottom of Swan Lane.
Thursdays – 9.15am to 9.45am on
JULY 2nd, 16th & 30th
St Kathrines Cresent TN25 6FU.
Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on.
JULY 3rd, 17th & 31st

*****SELLINDGE VILLAGE HALL – 2026 AGM – Tuesday July 7th at 7.15pm in the Durling Hall*****

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



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



KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE

HELPING YOU FIND SAFE LOCKSMITHS & HOME SECURITY EXPERTS



We are enjoying longer, lighter evenings out of the house and you might also be planning holidays. So now is a good time to think about your **home security**.

Criminals often target homes they believe are vulnerable. This can include overcharging for emergency locksmith services, carrying out unnecessary work, or installing poor-quality security equipment that leaves your property at risk.

How Trading Standards Checked helps

Our directory makes it simple to find a safe, local locksmiths and security specialists. All businesses in our scheme are the **only ones checked by Kent Trading Standards**.

We check many aspects of the business such as licenses, accreditations, insurance and commitment to fair trading. This **gives you confidence when booking work**, especially in rural areas where unsolicited visits are more common.



SIMPLE WAYS TO STAY SAFE:

- Never agree to work at your door.
- Take time to compare traders, especially in emergencies.
- Always get 3 written quotes.
- Be cautious of pressure selling.
- Check reviews and previous work.
- Find a safe local trader, visit kent.gov.uk/tschecked or call 03000 416438.
- Report suspicious activity to Kent Police on 101.



If you feel threatened, call 999.

FIND A SAFE, LOCAL TRADER



Scan the QR CODE

Trading Standards Checked is Kent County Council's safe trader scheme for home improvement work. To find out more:

Visit kent.gov.uk/tschecked or call 03000 416438

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 July 14th** starting at 6.30pm in the Durling Hall.

Dog Poo Bags – Dog poo bags are still available from the Parish Council Office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays during office hours.

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 is located at the entrance to the Village Green.

Please be aware – that due to the misuse of the dog poo bag dispenser.

The Parish Council have decided to suspend its use until further notice.

Parish Councillor Vacancies – There is presently three Parish Councillor Vacancies so we can Co-Op these vacancies. 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 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

Otterpool Park – By the time you read this, there will have been a public exhibition on the next stage of Otterpool Park. Since the council resolved to grant planning permission in 2023, several elements have progressed. The exhibition covers the changes Otterpool Park LLP plan to submit and information about the delivery of first homes and details will also have been released on what land Homes England has recently purchased. Information from the exhibition will also be available on otterpoolpark.org from Thursday 25 June for anyone who was unable to attend in person.

Your Community Voice – if you have not yet signed up to this website, please do. There is reported incidents of fraud where offenders are targeting people shortly after they withdraw cash from banks. Offenders monitor bank customers who have made large cash withdrawals, follow them to car parks or nearby locations and then cleverly distract them (eg dropping a note on the ground and pointing it out), while a second person attempts to steal a purse, wallet or cash. Protect yourself by staying alert, keeping cash, purses etc out of sight. If you think you are being targeted, report immediately to the Police via 101 (or 999 in an emergency). If you have been a victim of any type of scam call your bank on 159.

Parking in Folkestone & Hythe Carparks - Residents who regularly use Folkestone & Hythe District Council car parks are being encouraged to apply for a useful permit. The newly named Residents' Discount Parking Permit enables residents to park once a day for up to three hours in a long-stay council car park, and up to two hours in short-stay car parks. Eligible car parks include Harbourside in Folkestone, Dymchurch Central, the Jolly Fisherman car park in Greatstone and Battery Point at Hythe, plus many more. The annual cost for the Residents' Discount Parking Permit is £80 with the alternative three-month permit at £20.

Planning Appeal - An appeal has been made by Greenfield Energy Developments Ltd to the Secretary of State against the decision of Ashford Borough Council in refusing the proposal for the Installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) plus ancillary infrastructure and equipment, landscaping, biodiversity improvements and access at Land East of Forty Acre Wood and South of Daffodil Cottage, The Street, Brabourne.

View the Appeal Documents at www.ashford.gov.uk using the planning application search links and inputting the appeal reference AP-90825. The appeal will be determined on the basis of an inquiry.

Proposed development – Land adjoining Lyndon Hall Lyminge. I attended the Exhibition on 23 June at Lyminge Village Hall, was able to discuss a number of material planning considerations with developers. Over the last month I have also attended Monks Horton & Stowting Annual Parish Meetings, Sellindge Parish Council, Sellindge School Fayre and a Benefice Service at All Saints Stanford to celebrate to the 20th year since the Rev Stephen Dougal was ordained as a priest into the Lyminge Benefice of Churches.

SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Office Opening Hours

Tuesday 11am to 4pm

Wednesday 11am to 4pm

Friday 11am to 4pm

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

Otterpool Park LLP held a Public exhibition at Sellindge Village Hall on Wednesday 24 June.

The Exhibition is to update the public on the next steps for Otterpool Park. The council resolved to grant planning permission for Otterpool Park in 2023 and several elements have progressed.

The exhibition will cover the changes at Otterpool Park and information about, delivery of first homes there.

We recently had a very successful meeting of the North Downs Forum in Elham Village Hall with 30 people attending. We started with a talk by Michaela Luckett, the Good Neighbours Service Co-Ordinator at Kent Coast Volunteering. Their volunteer befrienders contact lonely people experiencing social isolation in the south coast area including the North Downs. They also provide transport for people to get to appointments. They are looking for volunteer drivers and volunteers with some time to spare to contact clients on a regular basis. You can also contact them if you would like to use their Good Neighbour service or require transport to attend appointments. Please call 01304 367898 if you can volunteer or would like their help.

We also discussed potential projects that you could get involved in. These included a group to work on the Nailbourne to protect and restore this pure chalk stream, formation of a community benefits society to provide community energy, a Thoughtful Foods program to encourage the planting and growing of food to use for yourself and to share with others and a group to identify walks in the North Downs area. The next meeting is being held at Knowler Farm on the 24th September when the topic will focus on producing food for your own use. Any resident can join the group, you don't need to belong to the Parish Council or a community group. Just contact me to find out more.

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

New Library for Folkestone – KCC has opened its first new library in Kent for 14 years, at 14 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone. This replaces the old library at Grace Hill which has been sold for £1 to Folkestone Town Council for it to explore and develop future community use. The new library is a hub for wider services including adult learning and local archives.

Local Government Reorganisation – The government has stressed that it wishes to keep to its timetable for new Unitary authorities to take the place of the district and County Council to come into being in April 2028. If there is an expected announcement from government on 16 July 2026, it would mean there would be elections for the 'shadow authorities' in Kent held in May 2027.

Consultation on Solar Farm Development for New Romney – The second phase of public consultation has commenced on South Brooks Solar Farm near Lydd. This is one of a number of major proposals for a solar farm and battery storage facility facing Romney Marsh. The scheme is backed by EDF Power Solutions UK and PS Renewables. Public views welcomed and details can be found on the scheme website.

Solar Farm Development Policy Statement – KCC supports a mixed economy of energy provision in Kent. A policy statement has been produced which supports the development of nuclear, Hydrogen and renewables such as solar. However, the Council states that it does not want to see top grade agricultural land or highly valued landscapes covered by solar farms and battery storage facilities, nor does it favour excessively large solar developments. Rather, it will encourage developments to be sited on industrial land, brown field sites and existing buildings.

Member Community Grants – Small grants in the region of £250 to £500 are available for constituted non-profit making groups in Elham Valley for events and activities. Please contact Christopher Hespe by email at Christopher.hespe@kent.gov.uk in first instance if you want a project to be considered for a grant.

Household Waste Sites – A new, speedier and simplified method for booking visits to household waste centres in Kent was introduced on 17 June 2026. Please visit the pages on the KCC website for details.

Otterpool Consultation – Otterpool Park LLP, the master developer of Otterpool Park, is preparing to submit updated information to the local planning authority (Folkestone and Hythe District Council) on progress with the 8,500 homes development. It has organised a public exhibition to update on the Otterpool Park 'next steps'. This was held at Sellindge Village Hall on Wednesday 24 June from 2.30pm to 8.00pm. Information from the exhibition will be available on the Otterpool website from Thursday 25 June for anyone unable to attend in person.

Chris Hespe –

Kent County Councillor, Elham Valley, Cabinet Member for Local Government Efficiency and Reorganisation

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



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 July 4th at 9am Tables available book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319

★ KENT (MARINE) CADET FORCE ★

BOOT FAIR

SELLINDGE SHOW GROUND

★ SUNDAY ★
19TH JULY

★ SUNDAY ★
20TH SEPTEMBER

GATES OPEN
— AT —
07.00 HRS

CARS £10
VANS £15

TOILETS ON SITE ★ NO CATERING REQUIRED PLEASE

★ FOR DETAILS TELE 07759283833 ★

HOLIDAY TENNIS

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THE IDEAL WAY to get started with tennis -

OR, IF YOU ALREADY PLAY, LEVEL UP YOUR GAME with our qualified LTA coaches.

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SPACES ARE LIMITED - BOOK EARLY TO AVOID MISSING OUT!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK:
david.weller22@btinternet.com

SELLINDGE TENNIS CLUB LTA FOR BRITAIN

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	
	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	– 2pm – 4pm	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	
	NEW CHAIR BASED PILATES	– 11.30am	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
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Sellindge Village Hall

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

01303 813250 sellindgevillagehall@gmail.com



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

Vicar's letter – July 2026

Summer - A Time for Community and Celebration

As July approaches, I find myself reflecting on two special occasions. This month marks five years since I was ordained, and I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of serving our churches and communities. It has been a joy to share in so many moments of worship, celebration, challenge and friendship over these past five years.

The summer holidays are also fast approaching. For many, this is a season of rest, family gatherings, holidays and enjoying the beauty of God's creation. It is a time when we can pause from our busy lives and reconnect with one another and nature. I realise that for some just sorting childcare over the school holidays is challenging but hopefully all of us will have some opportunity to pause.

One of the things I value most about village life is the sense of community that brings people together. Whether through church services, local events or simply stopping for a chat, these connections remind us that we belong to something greater than ourselves. In a world that can often feel hurried and divided, sharing time together is a precious gift.

I am delighted that we have several opportunities to do just that this summer. The traditional Afternoon Teas at St Peter's Church, Monks Horton, offer a wonderful chance to enjoy sandwiches, scones, cakes and conversation in the peaceful surroundings of the churchyard. We also look forward to the Strawberry Tea at The Old Rectory, Stowting Hill, where friends old and new can gather in support of our village community. These occasions are about far more than tea and cake. They are opportunities to strengthen friendships, welcome newcomers and celebrate the communities that God has entrusted to our care. They remind us that hospitality, kindness and fellowship are at the heart of Christian life.

As we enjoy the summer months, may we take time to appreciate the blessings around us, to look out for our neighbours, and to give thanks to God for the gift of community.

I hope to see many of you at our summer events. With every blessing – **Revd Susan Manners**

Services in the Stour Downs – July 2026

	Smeeth 9:30	Mersham 9:30	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
5th July 5 th Sunday after Trinity	Parish Communion	Morning Worship Iona	10am Family Service		6pm Evensong	
12th July 6 th Sunday after Trinity	Morning Praise	Parish Communion				11am Communion
19th July 7 th Sunday after Trinity	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	11am Communion			
26th July 8 th Sunday after Trinity	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Mid-week communion 9:30am 15/7, 22/7, 29/7			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			

Please note, no mid-week communion on 1/7 or 8/7 and on 15/7 it will be at 10:30 to allow for the school service.

Volunteers wanted



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

Sellindge Speedwatch Scheme are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on their roads with the support of the police.

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around **94%** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months within Kent.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join a group and help, please go to **www.communityspeedwatch.org** to register.

For more information, visit the Kent Police website
www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch

Call **01622 653781**
or email Speedwatch@kent.police.uk



**Kent
Police**