

SELLINDGE VILLAGE NEWS

October 2026

Edition 750



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 OCTOBER 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 **OCTOBER 8th & 22nd**
St Kathrines Crescent TN25 6FU. Fridays – 2.50pm to 3.50pm on. **OCTOBER 9th & 23rd**

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 October 13th** 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.

SELLINDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Office Opening Hours

Tuesday	11am to 4pm
Wednesday	11am to 4pm
Friday	11am to 4pm

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Shape the future of Sellindge by joining the [Sellindge Parish Council](http://www.sellindge-pc.gov.uk).

We need passionate residents to voice local needs, guide community projects, and support our village.

Why Become a Parish Councillor?

- **Make a real difference:** Help decide on local matters like planning, village amenities, and community events.
- **Be the voice of residents:** Represent your neighbour's and ensure the community's views are heard by higher councils.
- **Support local growth:** Help balance rural charm with the needs of a growing village.

What the Role Involves

- Attend monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday evening at Durling Hall.
- Share your life experience, common sense, and local knowledge.
- Work as part of a friendly team to plan for the village's well-being.

To find out more or express your interest, contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@sellindge-pc.gov.uk or visit the Parish Council office behind the Sellindge Village Hall

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

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

Government Re-organisation – on 6 September there was a Ministerial Statement advising that Re-organisation in Kent has been paused for the decision to be reviewed! Apparently there was concern about the legality of the situation. It was also confirmed that the normal cycle of local elections will take place next May. I have submitted a motion for full Council to discuss on 7 October. This can be viewed on the website from 1 October.

Local Plan Scoping Consultation - FHDC is preparing a new Local Plan and is inviting comments from local people. Details can be found on a new dedicated webpage at

www.folkestoneandhythelocalplan.co.uk There is, in addition, a Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report on which the Council is also seeking comments. Comments can be made on both consultations via the website. The consultation ends at 4pm on Friday 16 October.

Folca 2 – FHDC has submitted a planning application aimed at preparing the Art Deco section of the building to become an active mixed-used building with commercial units and a medical centre. Subject to NHS approval, two GP practices will occupy the upper floors, while retail and commercial tenants will be located on the ground and basement levels. Comments are invited on this application 26/1453/FH via the planning portal by 8 October 2026.

Eurostar - Residents are being asked to participate in a survey to help demonstrate the level of demand for the return of international rail services to Kent. No international trains have stopped in Kent since 2020, when Eurostar withdrew services from Ashford during the Covid pandemic. The survey has been created by campaign group Bring Back Euro Trains. You can complete the questionnaire [here](#).

In the last month I attended the farewell service for Rev Carol Bates at Elham as she moves on from the Elham Valley Group of Churches Benefice to a new church in Wigan.

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

Following the fire at the Grand Burstin Hotel, structural specialists are carrying out an investigation into the structure of the building following the fire. All tenants living in the neighbouring Pavilion Court flats have been relocated to alternative accommodation and have been provided with welfare support and most local businesses are operating as usual.

The latest edition of Your District Today magazine, can be found online and a print edition is being delivered across the district from this week. The free publication celebrates the successful opening of the new Lower Leas Coastal Park play area and the magazine also has updates on local wellbeing initiatives, and the UNESCO geopark application.

The new play zone in Folkestone town centre has been agreed by the council's planning and licensing committee members. The Bouverie Square area is to have a range of play equipment including a substantial climbing structure and a wheelchair-accessible roundabout.

There is an appeal to the district to support those affected by the flooding on the Nepal-Tibet border. Local support for the British Red Cross Nepal Floods Appeal is being coordinated by the Folkestone Nepalese Community. Folkestone has a strong link with the Nepalese community, including its role as regimental home of the Gurkhas. Donations can be made via the [Folkestone Nepalese Community website](#).

The Local Plan guides decisions about where new homes, employment space and community facilities should be developed, while helping to protect the environment and respond to climate change. Preparation of a new Local Plan for the district has begun and residents, businesses and local communities are being invited to get involved. This first stage consultation is open for six weeks and closes by 4pm on the 16th October. Feedback received in this first stage will then inform the next stage of preparing the draft Local Plan. There will be further public consultation in 2027 once this draft is prepared. Visit the [Local Plan microsite](#) to find out more.

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

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

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 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 October 3rd 9am** Tables available book/info contact Jane on 07850 722 319

FOOTBALL

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

Oct 4th – Away V Faversham Oct 11th – Away V Lydd Town Oct 18th – Home V Sittingbourne

Oct 25th – Home V Big Bear Nov 1st – Away V Hawkinge Town.

Sellindge Ladies Football Club Sunday afternoon at 2pm they compete Southeast Kent Women's League

Oct 4th – Home V Tunbridge Wells Foresters Oct 11th – Home V Westerham Nov 1st – Home V Tunbridge Wells

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

Oct 4th – Away V Hythe Green Oct 11th – Home V Bromley Green Oct 18th – Home V Smeeth / Brabourne

SELLINDGE SOCIAL CLUB
FIREWORKS NIGHT
SAT 14TH NOVEMBER
GATES OPEN AT 5PM
FIREWORKS AROUND 7PM

ADULT TICKETS £8
UNDER 14s £5
UNDER 2s FREE
FAMILY TICKET (2 ADULTS 2 CHILDREN) £20

FUN FAIR
STALLS
FOOD
LICENCED BAR

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM THE CLUBHOUSE
LIMITED FAMILY TICKETS
WHEN THERE GONE THERE GONE!
GREAT FAMILY ATMOSPHERE

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	10am12.00 Noon	Durling Hall	
	PLAY GYM 0 – 6 months	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).

Dear Friends,

October is a month of change. The days are noticeably shorter, the mornings can carry a chill, and the countryside around us begins to take on those wonderful autumn colours. There is something both beautiful and poignant about this season: we see the richness of the harvest, while at the same time the trees begin to let go of their leaves.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of autumn. It reminds us that change and letting go are part of the rhythm of life. We cannot hold on to every season forever. Instead, we are invited to receive each one for what it brings.

For those of us who live in a rural community, October also gives us plenty of opportunity to notice the world around us. The fields have their own story to tell after the work of the summer; hedgerows are full of berries; the mornings are often filled with birdsong; and, if we are fortunate, there are still warm and golden afternoons to enjoy.

Our Christian faith has always been closely connected with the seasons and with the land. The Bible speaks frequently of sowing and reaping, planting and harvesting, rain and sunshine, growth and dormancy. These are not simply images from the countryside: they speak to our own lives. There are times when we seem to flourish and times when life feels quieter or more uncertain. Yet through all these seasons, God remains present.

October also leads us towards November, when the Church particularly remembers those who have died. For many people, this can be a tender time of year. Memories of loved ones may feel especially close. Our churches offer a space in which grief can be acknowledged, thanksgiving can be expressed, and hope can be found. All our churches are open each day.

In the midst of the busyness of village life, I hope we can make time this month for one another. A cup of tea with a neighbour, a conversation at the school gate, a helping hand with a job, or simply noticing someone who might be feeling lonely can make a greater difference than we realise. A village becomes a community not simply because people live close to one another, but because they care for one another.

As evenings draw in, may we remember that even smallest acts of kindness can bring light into someone else's day.

With every blessing for October, Rev Susan

Services in the Stour Downs – October 2026

	Smeeth 9:30	Mersham 9:30	Brabourne	Stowting	Monks Horton	Sellindge
4th October 18 th Sunday after Trinity	Parish Communion	Morning Worship	10am Family Service		6pm Harvest Evensong	
11th October 19 th Sunday after Trinity Rev Susan away	Morning Praise	Parish Communion Harvest				11am Communion
18th October 20 th Sunday after Trinity	Parish Communion	Morning Worship Iona	11am Communion			
25th October Last After Trinity	Morning Praise	Communion for all		11am Communion		
Mid-week communion 9:30am 7/10, 14/10, 28/10 21/10 10am			9:30am Midweek Parish Communion			



CITY OF CANTERBURY BAND



An Evening of Music

With the City of Canterbury Brass Band
Playing music to suit all tastes

Featuring the
OTONO GUITAR QUARTET

Saturday 10th October 2026
7.00 p.m.

At
St John the Baptist,
Church
Mersham, Kent. TN25 6NT



Admission £10.00
Children Free

Light refreshments included!