

# TOWNCrier magazine

Christchurch • St Mary's • Swanley Village • White Oak Wards

## Great British Spring Clean

Swanley Town Council took part in the nationwide "The Great British Spring Clean" initiative on the 1st & 2nd March 2019. This year more than 100 residents, local businesses employees and school children participated over the two days collecting over 3 tons of rubbish! Teams were arranged to cover various parts of Swanley these included Pinks Hill, Charnock, parts of Goldsel Road, Azalea Drive, Hart Dyke Road, Linden Way, School

Lane, St George's Road, Mead Close, Montague Place, Salisbury Avenue, parts of the High Street, Swanley Recreation Ground, front of the Fire Station, Highlands Hill, Selah Drive, St Mary's Road, Whitecroft, The Spinney, grass area by The Woodland, Kingswood Avenue, Willow Avenue along with various alleyways. A very big thank you to all those who took part over the 2 days.

Keep  
Kent  
Clean



continue reading and see a number of photos on page 14

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**06** Making It Happen Awards



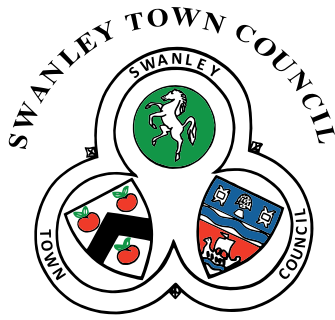
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## TOWN Crier magazine

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## A word from the Mayor Councillor Lesley Dyball

I am hoping by the time this edition of the Town Crier has been published that we are well and truly in my favourite season of the year, bringing warmer days and . The budding trees are beginning to break into leaf, the daffodils have flowered in our parks and verges, the planted areas and troughs have provided splashes of colour and I think the town has looked particularly lovely this spring.

With spring in mind, many residents, businesses and pupils



from local schools took part in The Great British Spring Clean on 1st and 2nd March; an initiative which takes place all over the UK. We were out in force in a number of areas litter picking and Swanley had its own spring clean and tidy up. Over 3 tons was collected, and many of us who were out litter picking also reported dumped trolleys, fly-tipping and areas that needed more attention.

Swanley Park has undergone some major work during the winter months, and it is now ready to welcome the many visitors who enjoy our award-winning park. The long-awaited renovations to the splash pool are now complete and a new water attraction, "The Plunge", is expected to be open at the end of April. In addition, we are in the process of building a soft play area which will complement the existing park attractions, particularly when the weather is wet and cold. I am also pleased to announce that two new pieces of wheelchair user play equipment - a swing and a roundabout - have been installed in the children's playground.

Following on from the planting of over 600 trees to create Remembrance Wood in Swanley

Park, we are planning to plant hundreds more trees around the town. Not only do they bring interest and environmental benefits to the landscape but also they play a vital role in combatting pollution and improving our air quality.

Building on the success of last year when Swanley was awarded a Silver in the Best Town Centre category, we will again be entering the South East In Bloom competition and submitting several areas for consideration by the judges.

I am now in the final few weeks of my Mayoral year. It has been a busy one, and I have truly enjoyed meeting so many of you who contribute in so many different ways to the life of our town. I believe we are extremely fortunate to have such a vibrant and caring community, and it has been an honour and privilege to serve as your Mayor this past year.

With every good wish.

*Lesley Dyball*

Mayor of Swanley Town Council

## Swanley History Group

Keith Whitmore's presentation 'Old Swanley - Part 2' was enjoyed by a bumper attendance at our February meeting and most of us struggled to find answers to the music quiz at our AGM early in March.

On 16 March committee members were delighted to attend the service and unveiling of a plaque by The Mayor of Swanley Lesley Dyball, commemorating benefactor Edwin Vinson, at Christ Church Swanley.

### CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE.

Tuesday 2 April will be our first meeting at: The Alexandra Suite, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU when Francine Hills will be presenting the fascinating history of 'The Darenth Hospitals'.

On 7 May popular speaker Christoph Bull will be telling us about the many links the famous author Charles Dickens had with our county of Kent.

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, -7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start.

**Christina Tyler,  
Programme Organiser**



For further information visit our website  
[www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com](http://www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com),  
Telephone Terry Morris - 07884 493 894 or  
Email [swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk)



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## A word from the CEO

There has been so much going on in Swanley that it's hard to recall everything we have been doing and I think the Mayor has covered many items in her introduction so I will concentrate on things still to come. But I would like to start by passing my thanks to all those residents who work with us and other groups around the town to improve the lives of everyone in Swanley. We could not achieve the things we have without the support of volunteers, local business and local organisations so a big pat on the back if you are one of those people.

You will all be aware that Whiteoaks Leisure is to be re-built by Sevenoaks District Council but the new facility maybe smaller than the existing one. So, the town council is working with

others to provide new sports halls at the Olympic site in the future and while primarily for basketball it will support many sports that will find themselves displaced from Whiteoaks. Additionally one of the barns at Swanley Park is to be converted for Community use and will provide some additional useable space for meetings and events. This will include some additional work on the café in the park to expand the kitchen facilities and provide more seating and counter top space.

We will shortly be undertaking a large piece of work on the pitch at the bottom and the park to ensure it drains properly and will be useable all year round and will include looking at funding to provide changing facilities there. At the request of town councillors I have asked that Sevenoaks District Council hand over all open space, play areas and parks in their control to Swanley Town Council and this has been agreed for the most part. One of those areas is Bartholomew Park and we will be making some small changes there to make the park more visible to passers by and encourage more use.

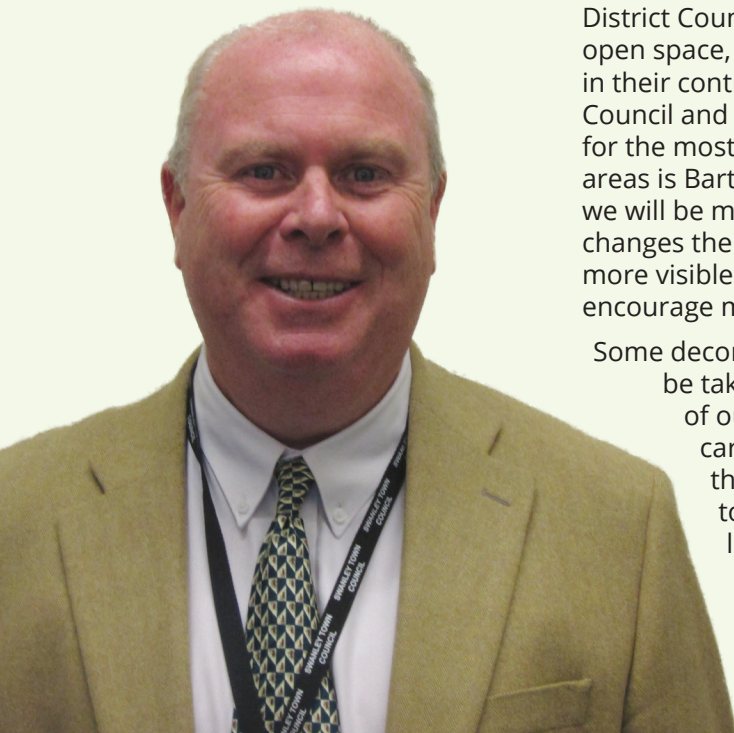
Some decorative changes will be taking place in some of our facilities with new carpeting and lights for the Alexandra Suite to help modernise its look and painting, with wall changes at the Olympic Suite.

Future developments in the town are being discussed by the Neighbourhood Planning Committee and Swanley Sports Forum and are all designed to engage with local residents and establish regular forums.

There is a new Community Rail Network being established between Swanley and Sevenoaks with the parishes of Eynsford, Otford and Shoreham al so involved in a joint project. The idea is to increase visitor numbers along the Darent Valley with each of the towns and villages promoting what is unique to us to attract more tourists. We will be able to request additional carriages on trains for specific events such as our 1812, Armed Forces Day and Light up the Town events which will help generate additional income to offset these costs.

I would like to finish by thanking all my staff for embracing these changes and taking on new responsibilities which have reduced costs, improved services and made it a pleasure to work at Swanley Town Council.

*Steve Nash*  
CEO



### ITS ELECTION TIME



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE  
ON **2ND MAY 2019**



MAKE SURE YOU ARE  
**REGISTERED TO VOTE**  
**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**Please note: All events and news carried in this edition of The Town Crier is current at the time of going to press but may be subject to change due to weather conditions.**

# Making It Happen Awards

On the 13th February The Making It Happen Awards which celebrate the unsung heroes, volunteers and community groups took place in the packed St Nicholas Church in Sevenoaks. This year there were several nominations of individuals and community groups from Swanley.



It was an honour to be present when The Swanley Police Cadets were announced as winners of the Community Safety Award. The Police Cadets have (until recently) been meeting in Swanley Town Council's Olympic venue. The Cadets have participated in many activities and even went out and picked up litter in Swanley prior to the Great British Spring Clean.



"Band Without Boundaries" who meet regularly in Sevenoaks won the Equalities Champion award. John Taylor who plays the mouth organ with this group was very proud to be there when the award was presented..

## Swanley Town Council nominated two Swanley Residents for the Individual Community Champion Award.



Barbara Lock was nominated for her outstanding voluntary work with Hi Kent where she runs clinics every month changing batteries and maintaining hearing aids. Barbara often does home visits for those with problems with mobility.



Martin Metcalf of Exhibition Traffic Management Services was nominated for commitment to community work in Swanley from both himself and his employees committed community work in Swanley. This includes The Great British Spring Clean, the Road Closure for the Remembrance Day parade and the one way system for the 1812 Charity Concert. (Martin is second from the right in this picture).



Every Step Counts: Gentle Wellbeing Walking group which meet every Thursday at 10.00am in Swanley Park for a gentle walk of up to 30 minutes. For more information email [everystepcounts17@gmail.com](mailto:everystepcounts17@gmail.com)

Further information and to nominate a local person for next year please get in contact.

**Email:** [towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
**Phone:** 01322 665 855  
**Write to us:** The Civic Centre, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7BU



# Happy's Circus Is Back at Swanley Park!

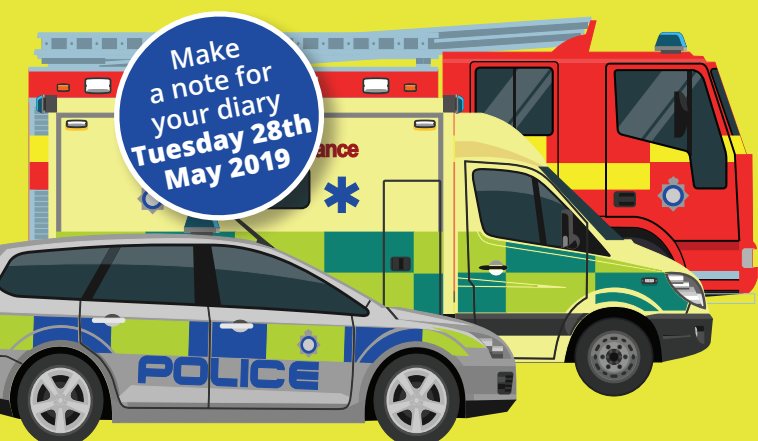
26th July - 28th July 2019

This year's theme for the Circus is in the style of "The Greatest Showman." Featuring Illusion, Double Aerial Straps, Static Trapeze, Double clubs, Aerial Hammock, Mr Slinky, Dancing Adagio, Aerial Silks, Magic, Contortion, speciality act Sword & Dagger Ladder Balancing, audience participation, Ring Master, Clown and loads of fun!



## Purchase Tickets

By following the link <https://tinyurl.com/yygfx52a> or scanning the QR Code with your Tablet or Smartphone



This year's health event organised by Patient Voice will be a little different from our previous ones.

The theme is: **Meet Our Emergency Services**  
**Tuesday 28th May 2019 from 2.00pm - 5.00pm**  
Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley  
it's in half-term and children will be welcome

There will be: Short presentations by the Ambulance, Fire and Police services; some emergency service vehicles in car park for visitors to investigate; demonstration of how to use a defibrillator.

Further items and full details will be well-advertised nearer the time, but make a note in your diary now.



**70's & 80's  
DISCO  
PARTY**

The Alexandra Suite  
Friday 31st May  
8pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

01322 613900

**ELVIS TRIBUTE  
The Olympic**

Friday 28th June  
7:30pm - Late

£20.00  
Includes basket meal  
Chicken | Scampi | Pizza

GARY KING

Call to book tickets today 01322 613900  
sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The Alexandra Suite  
**80'S PARTY NIGHT**

**SCHOOL'S  
OUT**

Friday 19th July  
8pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

01322 613900

**THE OLYMPIC**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**SECOND THURSDAY  
OF THE MONTH**

ENTRY £2 PER PERSON  
STARTS 8PM  
MAXIMUM 6 PEOPLE PER TEAM

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# Town Council Events 2019



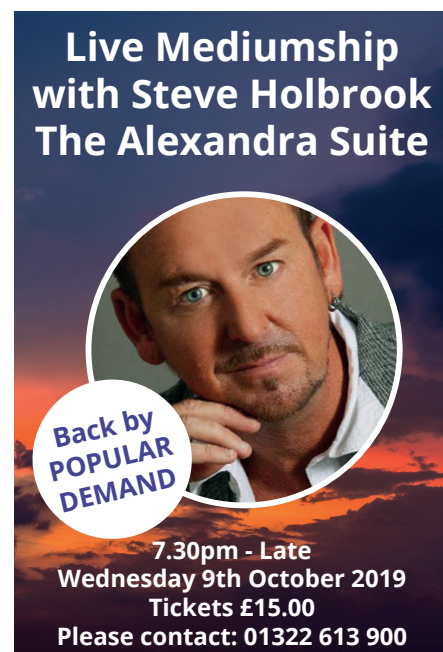
## St Georges Day

22nd April 2019

The day is almost upon us and there are lots of activities planned for the town centre.

The day was selected to try and facilitate maximum participation from residents as this is the second year we have put the event on with support from Cllr Michael Horwoods Kent County Councillor Grant.

There will be entertainers, stilt walking, rides, food and games so why not make a day of it with the whole family and come along to Swanley Square.



for further information Telephone: 01322 665 855  
Email: [towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)  
Web: <http://swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk>



# SWANLEY IN BLOOM

Why not Sponsor your own Basket from £65 to make the Town look lovely, to support our South & South East In Bloom Entry

## IN BLOOM COMPETITION - FREE TO ENTER

### CATERGORIES:

- Best Front Garden
- Best Back Garden
- Best hanging Basket/Trough
- Best community environmental project
- Best community ornamental project

Entry closing Date: 30th June

Judging 1st - 21st July

Entries via Coolings further details go to [www.coolings.co.uk](http://www.coolings.co.uk)



# The Olympic EUROvision

TABLE CONTEST

18th May 2019

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Basket meal £15.00per person

Chicken, Scampi, Pizza



Must book in advance full payment required

Please Call : 01322 613 900



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Chislehurst - 020 8467 2222, Sevenoaks - 01732 742400, Tonbridge - 01732 617171, Tunbridge Wells - 01892 300330











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## Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group

-  **Saturday 27 April**  
Wildflower seeding
-  **Saturday 25 May**  
Habitat creation - KW
-  **Saturday 22 June**  
Path work/wildflower ID
-  **Saturday 20 July**  
Open Day (Swanley Park)
-  **Saturday 17 August**  
Awayday for Group
-  **Saturday 28 September**  
Cutting Wildflower Areas
-  **Saturday 12 October**  
Raking Wildflower Areas with 2nd Swanley Brownies
-  **Saturday 26 October**  
Bulb Planting in Remembrance Wood
-  **Saturday 23 November**  
Tree Planting / Tree Recycling / Social
-  **Saturday 25 January 2020**  
Annual General Meeting

### NEW VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME

[www.freewebs.com/swanleyenvirogroup](http://www.freewebs.com/swanleyenvirogroup)  
& Swanley Wildlife & Nature Group - SWAN on Facebook

Turn to  
page 12  
for the latest  
work carried out  
at Swanley  
Park

## SWANLEY AND DISTRICT



UNIVERSITY OF  
THE THIRD AGE

After a very successful and enjoyable year last year, we are now looking forward to a busy 2019.

Our monthly meeting in May will be our AGM when some of our existing committee members will be standing down and we will be welcoming new committee members to take their places. Many thanks for the sterling work over the years done by those who will now be taking a more leisurely approach to U3A meetings.

We are rightly proud of the variety of study/interest groups available to members. Most group meetings take place in members' homes and the range of themes is really quite remarkable: science, nature, history, literature, languages, sport, art and outdoor pursuits.

In 2017 some of our members enjoyed a holiday in Ireland and now a second holiday has been arranged for members of our walking group who will be spending a week in Betws y Coed in April with at least one walk each day.

In May we have planned a coach trip to Oxford that includes a guided walking tour of the city, a visit to one of the most beautiful churches in England, and a cruise from Folly Bridge with a stop at a characterful pub on the towpath of the River Isis.

Members of our Theatre Appreciation Group are going to see 9-5 The Musical, with other theatre events being planned. All events are advertised in our monthly newsletters that can be viewed on our website. There is also a full list of all our groups on the website.

If you are no longer in full time employment and want to join our friendly organisation where you can make new friends, learn new skills and engage in new activities then please get in touch with one of our committee members or come along to one of our meetings at the Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley; we meet there on the first Friday of each month.

Please visit our website to find out more about us, our activities and groups:  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/swanley>  
Ring our Membership Secretary: 07470 201703.  
Join us at one of our monthly meetings



# Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group

Do you know about the Environment Area at the top of Swanley Park where a group of volunteers (SWAN) have been improving the habitats for wildlife?

We have planted native hedging, native trees, wildflower bulbs and wildflower meadows, created a bog area, a stag beetle home, logpiles etc?

The Area is a haven for all types of wildlife: birds, insects, invertebrates, spiders and slow worms and we continue to improve and diversify the surroundings here for wildlife to enjoy.

Why not come along to one of our working parties during the year and find out about what we do?

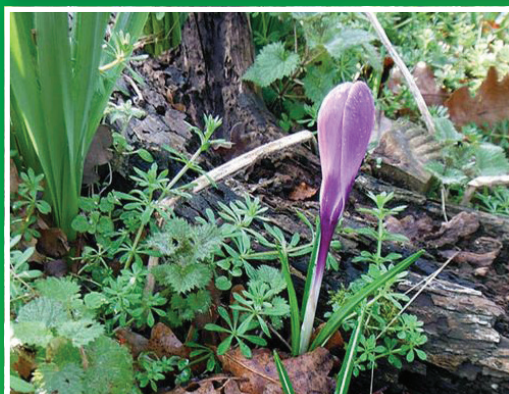
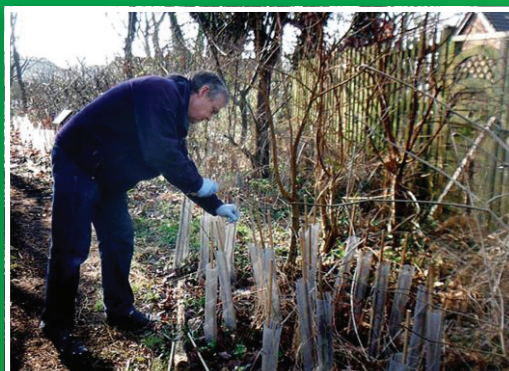
We usually meet on the last Saturday of the month from 10am to 12noon at the top car park of Swanley Park where the Environment Area is sited to the right hand side, tools provided, no membership fees, and under 18's must be accompanied by an adult.

New volunteers, especially families, very welcome from all areas, not just Swanley.

See page 11 for our Calendar for the rest of this year.



Photographs opposite:  
Caring for young trees  
and signs of spring  
arriving February 2019





# SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL SENIOR PASSPORT TO LEISURE SCHEME

Please find below details of the Passport to Leisure trips for July, August & September 2019.

Booking forms and further information regarding the trips are available at: The Swanley Link, London Road, BR8 7AE.

Tel: 03000 421 270 or 03000 421 254

E-mail: [csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)

## **BROADSTAIRS** **Tuesday 9th July 2019**

Broadstairs is one of Thanet's seaside resorts known as the 'Jewel in Thanet's crown'. The town lies above a harbour with cliffs on either side. It has seven bays of golden sand; Dumpton Gap, Louisa Bay, Viking Bay, Stone Bay, Joss Bay, Kingsgate Bay and Botany Bay.

The Dickens House museum is situated on the seafront and displays many artefacts relating to Charles Dickens and his life in Broadstairs. Crampton Tower by the railway station houses a museum that contains Thomas Russell Crampton's working drawings, models and graphics. The church of St-Peter-In-Thanet has one of the longest churchyards in England. Lunch can be purchased at a variety of eateries including traditional pubs, restaurants and cafes.

**Depart The Civic Centre: 10.00am | Depart Broadstairs: 3.30pm | £17.50pp**



## **EASTBOURNE** **Thursday 8th August 2019**

With a seafront consisting largely of Victorian hotels, a pier and a Napoleonic era fort and military museum, Eastbourne was developed at the direction of the Duke of Devonshire from 1859 from four separate hamlets. Though Eastbourne is a relatively new town, there is evidence of human occupation in the area from the Stone Age. The town grew as a fashionable tourist resort largely thanks to prominent landowner, William Cavendish, later to become the Duke of Devonshire. Cavendish appointed architect Henry Currey to design a street plan for the town. The resulting mix of architecture is typically Victorian and remains a key feature of Eastbourne. Lunch can be purchased at the numerous restaurants and cafes that adorn the sea front.

**Depart The Civic Centre: 10.00am | Depart Eastbourne: 4.00pm | £17.50pp**



## **RYE** **Tuesday 3rd September 2019**

During Rye's history the association with the sea has included providing ships for the service of the King during times of War. Rye also has close links with the smuggling gangs of the 18th and 19th centuries who used The Mermaid Inn and The Olde Bell Inn connected by a secret passageway. Rye being part of the Cinque Ports Confederation and a bastion against invasion on the Channel Coast, has always had close links with the crown. King Edward III and the Black Prince defeated the Spanish in Rye in 1350. Lamb House, one of the town's historic residences and now owned by the National Trust has been the former residence of the writers Henry James, Joseph Conrad, Stephen Crane and H.G. Wells. Lunch can be purchased at a variety of pubs and restaurants located within the town.

**Depart The Civic Centre: 11.00am | Depart Rye : 3.30pm | £17.50p**





# Great British Spring Clean

continued from front page

St Mary's and St Paul's Schools have already asked if they do another litter pick in July. Some residents have also expressed an interest

in carrying out regular litter picks which Swanley Town Council are happy to facilitate.

Keep  
Kent  
Clean



## #KeepKentClean

If you are interested in completing regular litter picks and have not already contacted me please either email Toni Roast



troast@swanleytoncouncil.gov.uk



01322 665 855e



# THE OLYMPIC DARTS COMPETITION

Alongside our popular Karaoke Night  
FAMILY NIGHT OUT!!!!



1st Friday of the month

**£100** (Guaranteed Prize Pot)

Registration 19:45 | Competition starts 20:00  
Round Robin | Straight KO (number dependant)

THE OLYMPIC, Beechenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent BR8 8DR  
01322 613900

Alexandra Suite & The Olympic

*Wedding Fair*  
at the *The Alexandra Suite*

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for the  
Bride

*Saturday 27th April*  
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## *The Olympic* FAMILY KARAOKE

**FIRST FRIDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
From 7:30pm**



GREAT FAMILY NIGHT OUT!!

RESERVE A TABLE | CHILDRENS BIRTHDAYS

THE OLYMPIC, BEECHENLEA LANE, SWANLEY, KENT BR8 8DR  
SALES@SWANLEYTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK | 01322 613900

## SWANLEY PARK

# NERF WARS

- 1 Hour Party
- £10 per child
- Parties run all year round
- All against all
- Capture the base
- Team shoot out match

## SURVIVAL PARTIES

- 2 Hour Party
- Build your own party
- £150 for 10 Children | £15 for additional child
- Maximum 20 children
- Choose 3 Activities
  - \*Soft Archery \*Assault Course \* Escape & Evasion \* Fire Lighting
- \* Making A Shelter \* Nerf Wars \* Tug Of War \* Camouflage & Concealment

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