

TOWNCrier • magazine

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

The Swanley Silhouettes

The idea for the Remembrance Silhouettes is not a new one and in fact towns all over the UK have participated in the 'There but not there' programme of transparent silhouettes along with metal framed ones and solid metal ones like the ones we have here in Swanley.

The CEO of Swanley Steve Nash was successful in obtaining a grant of £9700 from the Heritage Lottery to create something memorable for the town and in creating links with local business, Swanley History Group and local primary schools to take the project forward.

A WW1 Re-enactor was employed to go into some of the schools and raise awareness of the importance of this years remembrance earlier in 2018. This was also to encourage the children to do some research on those from Swanley who lost their lives and Swanley History Group kindly offered to support this and provided much of the information. With the support of Town Councillors the silhouettes were agreed, Asda Approved the mounting of the



silhouettes and Sevenoaks District Council gave their permission as the land owner. Additional sponsorship funding and a Grant from Councillor Michael Horwood's Kent County Councillor fund ensured there was sufficient funding for the whole project. Thousands of poppies that were hand knitted as part of last years remembrance were brought out again along with some newly knitted ones to enhance this years display and staff at the Swanley

Link secured each one to a small mesh over a number of weeks.

A local firm was identified to cut the stainless steel silhouettes and make the plaques for each silhouette and staff from Swanley Town Council Grounds Team then spent a week securing the silhouettes to the wall to create the display we have today.

While the steel silhouettes will stay as a permanent reminder, there are plans to

change the display every year in a small way to keep it alive in everyone's mind.

The next display for 2019 has been put forward but the CEO would like to hear from anyone who has an idea for further enhancements.

It is hoped that additional funding can be obtained from the National Lottery in the future to remember the fallen from other conflicts since WW1 until we can provide a memorial for everyone up to the present day.

In this edition



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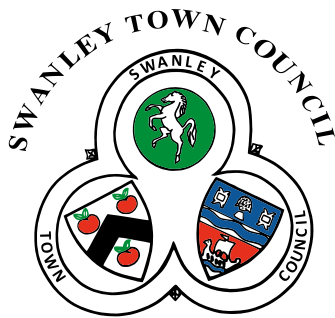
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You can download and read the Town Crier magazine on the go via the QR Code below or by visiting www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/town-crier



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A word from the CEO

This is the start of year 3 for me in Swanley and I have continued to enjoy my role and the changes I have been able to implement with the support of elected councillors.

All the activities and events we have provided have grown in size and popularity and we continue to make changes to them to keep them fresh and interesting for our residents.

We received great feedback about the WW1 silhouettes which have been erected on the Asda Wall with permission of Asda and Sevenoaks District Council who are the owners. The display would not have been possible without the support of the Heritage Lottery who gave a grant of £9700 and who may be encouraged to provide another grant for future projects.

We have taken back some of the contracts previously given up as I firmly believe we can offer a better service more often and at reduced costs to provide our residents with best value.

Changes to Swanley Park facilities will see a new club house created for the Rugby Club and other community groups along with a refurbished splash pool in 2019 which will be completely replaced within the next 5 years and an additional Great Outdoor activity area.

Changes to the drainage system in the park during 2019 will allow us to add new and additional welfare facilities in 2020 which will improve people's experience of the park and reduce queues.

It is only through partnerships and working together that we can all do the best for Swanley and I hope that those of you that are able, will lend your time, expertise and resources to supporting the town in the future.

I look forward to and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Steve Nash
CEO



Light Up The Town

Swanley Town Council held its Light Up the Town Event on Saturday the 1st December and despite the bad weather hundreds of people turned out to attend the event. There were all new lights around the town, a small craft area, fair rides, live music and dance and over 200 children visited Santa's Grotto in the square.

The event was opened by the Mayor of Swanley Councillor Lesley Dyball who was supported by a couple of Elves and a couple of snow machines set the scene for the day. Cllr Dyball said 'it was great to see so many people out for the actual switch on despite the rain and I believe there were a record number of people at the tree to see the lights'.

The event continues to grow each year and provides local groups an opportunity to show off their skills and encourage more members to join them. Some craft workshops were provided by the Co-op and a small parade led by Elves and stilt walkers made sure that people arrived at the tree on time.

We are looking for your ideas

If you have an idea for an Event or something you would like us to consider please get in touch.

Email: towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Phone: 01322 665 855

Write to us: The Civic Centre, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, Kent BR8 7BU

We would love to hear from YOU!



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.

A word from the Mayor Councillor Lesley Dyball

The Christmas and New Year celebrations are behind us now, and I do hope that you enjoyed some special time with friends and family during the busy festive season.

I would like to take this opportunity to look back over the past 12 months and recall the community events which Swanley Town Council has put on for local residents and visitors to our town. The St George's Day event in April was well attended with a variety of stalls and attractions to entertain the crowds in the town centre.

This was followed by Armed Forces Day in June held on the Recreation Ground which is fast becoming a firm favourite in the community events calendar and which attracted even greater numbers of visitors this year. The 1812 weekend festival in August ran, for the first time, over two days; however the weather was wet and cold which did not fill Swanley Park with the numbers of spectators we were expecting.

Those who did come to the park armed with brollies and blankets enjoyed live music and fireworks on the Friday evening, and a day entertainment provided by live bands and artists on the Saturday. Firework Night in November, however, was dry (for a change!) and the Recreation Ground was packed with local residents enjoying the free firework display and a huge, toasty warm bonfire.

Remembrance Day was very special this year, it being the centenary of the end of World War I. Swanley Town Council's lasting tribute to the fallen of Swanley was 113 soldier silhouettes, adorned with poppies and mounted on the perimeter wall of ASDA, and unveiled in spectacular fashion by Sir Michael Fallon, myself and representatives from the local community, schools and groups. The Town Council has received so many positive comments about this memorial and we are extremely proud to remember our heroes of The Great War in this way.

Two weeks later and the planting of over 600 sapling trees in Swanley Park by local groups, individuals and family members of those from Swanley who died in World War I created Remembrance Wood. This was a collaborative venture involving the Town Council, Swanley History Group and

Swanley Wildlife and Nature group which was extremely rewarding and which we hope will be a successful community legacy.

Light Up The Town, another soggy day, reduced the numbers of local residents who took advantage of the day of entertainment in the town centre. However, the rain stopped in time for the Christmas light switch on and the lighting up of the tree which brought out what we think is the largest crowd for this annual event.

Looking forward to 2019 now, we hope to build on our community events to provide something for all of our residents to enjoy. Please look out for the banners on the lamp posts and the posters around the town which will advertise our various events throughout the year.

The completion of the disposal of The Woodlands should happen in the early part of 2019, as we understand that a planning application has been submitted, and approval of that will provide closure on this sale for the Town Council. We are planning to use some of the funds from the sale to refurbish and refresh the Town Council's estate and buildings, which in turn will provide better facilities for our residents to enjoy.

I have enjoyed meeting so many of you as I have attended various events and been introduced to local groups and organisations since my term of office began last May. I would like to thank you all for the warm welcome I have received wherever I have gone in and around Swanley, and I look forward to meeting more of you as my Mayoral year begins to draw to a close.

With every good wish.



Lesley Dyball

Mayor of Swanley Town Council



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The Olympic



2nd Thursday Of Every Month

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Entry £2.00 Per Person

Maximum 6 people per team

SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLYMPIC, BEECHENLEA LANE, SWANLEY, KENT BR8 8DR
SALES@SWANLEYTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK | 01322 665855



Mother's Day

Sunday 31st March

The Olympic

Beechenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent BR8 8DR

*Treat your mum to a delicious meal
this Mother's Day*

To make a reservation call us on

01322 613900

www.theolympicswanley.org.uk

sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

ellenor.*

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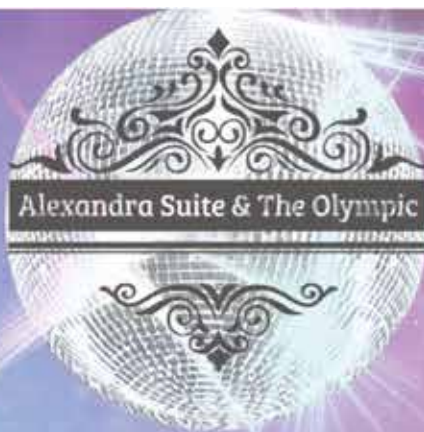


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www.ellenor.org



Registered charity number: 1121561



SOUL & MOTOWN



The Alexandra Suite

Friday 22 February

8pm - late

Tickets £10.00

70's & 80's DISCO PARTY



The Alexandra Suite

Friday 31st May

8pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

PARTY ANTHEMS

The Alexandra Suite

Friday 29th March

8pm - Late

Tickets £10.00



DJ playing all your
favourite party
anthems
from the 70's to
present day!!

The Alexandra Suite 80'S PARTY NIGHT

SCHOOL'S OUT

Friday 19th July

8pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

01322 613900

MOVIE MAYHEM



The Alexandra Suite

Friday 26 April

8pm - Late

Tickets £15.00

LIVE SHOW & DJ

01322 613900

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sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

The Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley

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PARK ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY HALF TERM



NERF WARS

**MONDAY 18th, WEDNESDAY 20th
FRIDAY 22nd FEBRUARY 2019
11.00am - 12.00pm & 1.00pm - 2.00pm**

**£5.00 per person
paid in advance**

**12 places available
for each session**

**Telephone
01322 665 855**

SWANLEY PARK

Open February Half Term

WEATHER PERMITTING. SOME ACTIVITIES WILL BE OPEN



Swanley Boxing Club



Last month at the Alexandra Suite, Swanley Boxing Club raised £2000 to help raise awareness and funds for young Micky Bennett who is fighting leukaemia.

Thanks for everyone's support in helping raise the money and well done again to all the boxers for putting on a great night of boxing. Our next show will be announced soon.

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Town Council Events 2019

Telephone: 01322 665 855 | Email: towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk | Web: <http://swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk>

Mayor At Home

Alexandra Suite

Tuesday 5th February

For all Swanley Senior Citizens to enjoy.

To book your place please call 03000 421254 or visit The Link



Great British Spring Clean

1st & 2nd March

if you would like to get involved.

Please call Toni on 01322 665855



Commonwealth Day



Monday 11th March

Civic Centre

10:00am. The flag will be raised

Annual Town Meeting

Alexandra Suite

Wednesday 27th March

7:30pm



St George's Day

Swanley Town Centre

Bank Holiday

Monday 22nd April

10:00am - 4:00pm

Activities, Crafts, Displays, Stalls, Children's Rides

Something for all the family to enjoy



Swanley In Bloom

May - October

South East In Bloom

July



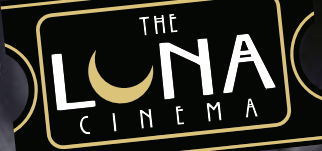
ARMED FORCES DAY

Saturday 29th June

Swanley Recreation Ground

11:00am - 5:00pm

Activities | Crafts
Displays | Children's Rides
Stalls



Swanley Park

10th & 11th July

1812 CHARITY FESTIVAL



Swanley Park

23rd & 24th August

Fireworks 23rd Live Music
Activities | Crafts | Displays
Children's Rides | Stalls

BONFIRE NIGHT

Swanley Recreation Ground
FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day Parade

Sunday 10th November
2:30pm

from Swanley Town Centre

Light Up The Town

Saturday 7th
December

Swanley Town Centre

Activities,
Crafts, Displays,
Children's Rides,
Stalls



GET THE CALL - BECOME AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER

Kent Fire and Rescue Service is working with the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) this week as part of a national campaign encouraging people to become on-call firefighters.

The “Need More” awareness week runs from 7 to 13 January 2019 and aims to highlight opportunities available in the fire service, while busting myths about what it takes to be a firefighter.

Throughout the week, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) will be celebrating its on-call staff and sharing stories about what drives them to become firefighters.

On-call firefighters come from every walk of life, including homemakers, shop workers, builders, farmers, administration officers and directors of companies, together with people who are not in currently in primary employment.

The campaign is supported by a national website - www.oncallfire.uk - which encourages people to get in touch with their local fire service, in January or anytime throughout the year.

On-call firefighters are required to live or work within five minutes travelling time from a local on-call fire station and to be able to provide evening, daytime or weekend availability to attend a wide range of emergency fire and rescue incidents.

To be an on-call firefighter, you must:

- Have a strong desire to support the local community.
- Live or/and work within 5 minutes of your local fire station.
- Be enthusiastic about working as part of a team.
- Have a good level of personal fitness.

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Full training is provided on an ongoing basis, therefore previous experience is not needed.

An on-call firefighter could be called out two or three times a week, for a few hours at a time. On call firefighters are paid to be available for an agreed number of hours based around people's other commitments and station demand. During that time, they are able to carry on their normal life, but are paid to be available when an incident comes in.

KFRS station manager Paul Ramsden said: "On-call firefighters are an integral part of our service and the community. We are keen to encourage anyone with the right skills and who wishes to make a real difference, to get in touch and find out about the opportunities we have available."



ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS

For more information visit:
www.oncallfire.uk

Find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter and see a full list of recruiting stations in Kent and Medway. Please use the QR code on your tablet or smartphone or visit <https://tinyurl.com/yb47lvwn>. The national website also gives advice to employers and how having on-call firefighters within their business can bring advantages. These include health and safety and medical response training, as well as developing situational awareness, leadership skills and the ability to work under pressure.





THE GREAT OUTDOORS

'Another year of exciting new additions to Swanley Park has begun! The Great Outdoors have opened their doors for visitors. Sessions are every weekday 10:00am - 12:00pm, with afternoon and weekend sessions being introduced later on in the year. Children are to be accompanied by an adult at all times, as they play with the various toys and games on offer. Park Manager Ryan Hayman said 'I am delighted an established business such as The Great Outdoors have chosen Swanley Park as their hub. Playing outdoors is such an important aspect of growing up, so join in and play at Swanley Park'. Children can stay for the whole session opening time for just £4 per child or free if they are not yet walking.





UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



Birdwatching



London History Group - Visit



Singing Group



Photography Group



Photography Group



Visit

If you are no longer in full time employment and want to join a friendly organisation where you can make new friends, learn new skills and engage in new activities then the University Of The Third Age could be just what you are seeking.

Join us at one of our monthly meetings held at the Alexandra Suite in St Mary's Road, Swanley, on the first Friday of the month from 10.00am to 12.00pm, where you can listen to an interesting speaker and enjoy a coffee and biscuit, then speak to a group leader about joining their group, book an excursion, theatre outing or holiday. The reason the U3A is different from other organisations is that as well as holding monthly meetings each month we have numerous learning and activity groups that take place throughout the month. It isn't like going back to school because these group meetings are held in members' homes and there are no teachers as each member contributes to the group. We currently have more than thirty groups and the number is increasing all the time.

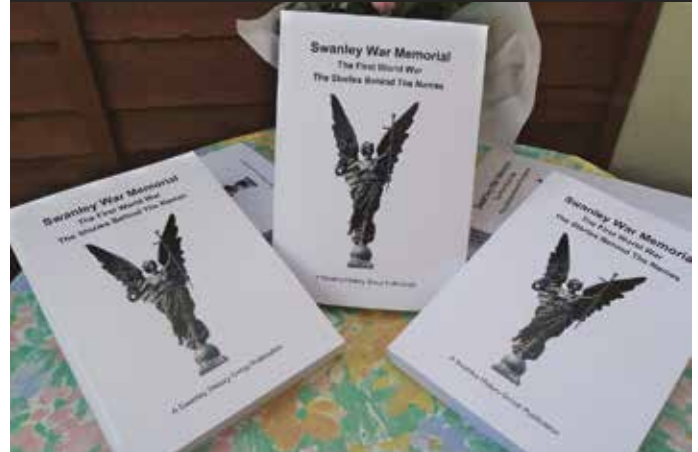
We also publish a monthly newsletter for members with group news and details of recent and forthcoming activities such as theatre trips, holidays and days out.



Photographs above are supplied by the U3A Digital Photography Group

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 History Group



It has been a busy and fruitful autumn for Swanley History Group. After two years research our book 'Swanley War Memorial – The Stories Behind The Names' was published. This tribute to the fallen of World War One, which includes many photographs, has been so well received that we have had to order reprints.

Our contact details are provided below should you wish to purchase a copy (cost £8.00). Another book is planned, remembering the lives of the fallen men from Swanley and the surrounding area during World War 2. If you are related to any of the men who died any information you have would be invaluable so please get in touch with us.

In November our members were delighted to be part of the Remembrance Day Unveiling of The Silhouettes and also the tree planting of the Remembrance Wood in Swanley Park, alongside other local groups. Monthly meetings continue to be well attended.

We enjoyed excellent speakers on varied topics including The Story of The Entertainments National Service Association; Hextable in Bygone Times; Christmas Traditions and The Early Days of Radio and TV.

We also had a jolly coach outing to The Criterion Music Hall on The Isle of Sheppey. Our first meeting in 2019 will be on 5 February when Keith Whitmore takes us on a second trip 'Up The Junction'.

Our website now has a 'Memories' page with contributions from distant places. Do have a look. If you have any memories of times past in Swanley and the surrounding area which you are happy to share please send your written account to our email address or telephone us.

Christina Tyler,
Programme Organiser

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm start - at White Oak Indoor Bowls Centre, Garrolds Close, off Hilda May Avenue, Swanley, BR8 7BF. See our website www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com for further information or telephone Terry Morris - 07884 493 894. or email address is - swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk





Great British Spring Clean

1st & 2nd MARCH 2019

Can you spare a couple of hours on the
1st & / or 2nd March 2019?



Swanley Town Council are looking for people to help
to litter pick in Swanley as part of the
nationwide Great British Spring Clean event.



If you are interested in getting involved
please contact Toni on 01322 665855
or email troast@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk



RURAL AGE CONCERN DARENT VALLEY



Rural Age Concern Darent Valley (RACDV) is an independent registered charity.

We have been providing services for the elderly and disabled for over 65 years. The charity was formed in 1951 as the Dartford Rural District Old Peoples Welfare Committee.



The Cottage Day Centre in Fawkham, Kent provides clients with a hot meal and varied entertainment Monday - Friday. Transport can be arranged.



The minibuses collect clients and takes them shopping and to local places of interest.

The Charity shop in Swanley has a selection of donated goods often including disability aids which can be purchased.

Our cottage day centre now has a brand new disabled toilet and wet room.

We rely heavily on volunteers in the day centre and our shop, in return we offer training, support and improving one's employment prospects.

The Trustees help to ensure that the charity is successful and always welcomes new trustee applications for those that would like to contribute to the charity sector and broaden their interests.

Rural Age Concern Darent Valley (RACDV) is an independent registered charity providing a day centre and hot meals, lunch clubs, activities, transport and shopping trips for elderly residents in the rural communities between Sevenoaks, Dartford and Gravesend.

RURAL AGE CONCERN
DARENT VALLEY

The Cottage Day Centre, 100 Scratchers Lane,
Fawkham, Kent, DA3 8PU



Charity no 265562



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A Wood To Remember

On Saturday 24th November 2018, over 100 volunteers came to plant in excess of 625 trees at Swanley Park. The wood will be named Remembrance Wood and serve as a living memory to those who died during the First World War. Swanley Wildlife & Nature Group (SWAN) arranged the event alongside Swanley Town Council, with planning starting nearly a year ago.

A minute's silence was honoured after the Chair of the Swanley, Crockenhill and Hextable branch of the Royal British Legion together with the Standard Bearer conducted a moving Act of Remembrance including the exhortation, the Last Post and the Reveille. In addition, Swanley History Group gave a detailed speech on the background story of Swanley's heroes. The group's knowledge also helped with Swanley Town Council's silhouette tribute, which took place earlier this month, all the stories are available in their recently launched book.

Sir Michael Fallon MP was also in attendance planting a tree for the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy, an initiative which began in 2015 as a network of forest conservation programmes throughout the 53 countries of the Commonwealth of Nations. Both events had a mutual connection as over 3 million soldiers and labourers from across the Commonwealth served alongside the British Army in the First World War. Park Manager Ryan Hayman said: 'Today was a real community occasion, it was great to see a variety of generations helping plant this wood, which will hopefully be here for many generations to come. This is a small gesture of thanks and remembrance, which I am proud to be supporting.'

SWAN Group Chair Richard Maile said: 'Thank you to everyone who contributed to the creation of this habitat that should be a legacy for future generations.' The event would not have been possible without the support of; Swanley History Group, Royal British Legion, Swanley Rugby Football Club, Swanley New Barn Railway, Swanley Brownies, Swanley Cubs, Swanley Rainbows, SWAN Members, Sir Michael Fallon MP, Cllr Paul Darrington, Cllr Michael Horwood, Jamie Casely, Bradley Smith, Gary Hopkins and all the volunteers for their help in making this event such a success.

Drop us a line on our website
www.freewebs.com/swanleyenvirogroup
or contact Swanley Town Council
01322 665855 for further details.



SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

SENIOR PASSPORT TO LEISURE SCHEME

Please find below details of the Passport to Leisure trips for April, May & June 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

BENTLEY PRIORY MUSEUM

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

Bentley Priory Museum tells the fascinating story of the beautiful Grade II listed country house, focusing on its role as Headquarters Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. The guided tour will explore the important stories of 'The One' - Air Chief Marshal Sir Hugh Dowling, 'The Few' who took to the air to defend our skies and 'The Many' without whose tireless work on the ground victory would not have been possible. Discover how technology, leadership and courage forged victory allowing Britain's darkest hour to also be her Finest Hour.

Your visit to Bentley Priory Museum will also include a scrumptious lunch of sandwiches and soup.

Depart The Civic Centre: 9.00am

Depart Bentley Priory Museum: 3.00pm | £39.00 per person



THE POSTAL MUSEUM

Thursday 9th May 2019

The Postal Museum reveals 5 centuries of history through the eyes of its iconic postal service. The day will begin with a 15 minute ride on Mail Rail, an immersive underground experience. The ride is narrated by a Mail Rail engineer and the train stops at two station platforms where films about the history of Mail Rail are projected onto the walls. After riding the Mail Rail discover even more about the story of the Postal Rail in the Mail Rail exhibition. In the Postal Museum Exhibition see a mail coach from the 1800 & the original sculpture used as a model for the Queen's head on stamps.

Its also the only place on the world where you can see a full sheet of Penny Black stamps. PLEASE NOTE: The Postal Museum is split across two sites - The Postal Museum and Mail Rail, separated by a road with a zebra crossing. The Mail Rail experience contains pitches of darkness, loud noises & flashing lights. Due to size constrictions no loose articles are allowed on the train, including bags & walking aids. All loose articles must be deposited in the cages provided or in lockers located in the welcome space before boarding.

Drinks, freshly made sandwiches & cakes can be purchased at The Counter café located within the Postal Museum.

Depart The Civic Centre: 10.30am

Depart The Postal Museum: 3.00pm | £38.50 per person



WHITSTABLE

Tuesday 11th June 2018

Whitstable is famous for its oysters which have been collected in the area since at least Roman times. The town was first recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086 under the name 'Witenestaple' meaning the 'meeting place of the white post'. The area contained three manors; Seasalter, Northwood and Swalecliffe. By 1413 the three manors had combined to form Whitstable Manor. This manor was seized by King Henry VIII during the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th Century and was given to the noble Minter family. Drinks, light refreshments and lunch can be purchased at the many bars, restaurant and cafes situated within the seaside town.

Depart The Civic Centre: 10.00am | Depart Whitstable: 3.30pm
£17.50 per person

