

TOWNCrier • magazine

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

Events remain free for Swanley Residents



Swanley Park

Following a year of successful events in 2019 the Town Council has been looking at how these events can remain sustainable for the future.

As a result the Town Council will be introducing a £1 per person charge for two of its events in 2020 and those are the 1812 event and Bonfire Night.

While the charges will not pay for these events in their entirety it will help reduce the cost to the council while providing great nights of affordable entertainment for our residents.

Swanley residents are able to obtain a FREE parking permit for

parking in Swanley Park which lasts a year and this same ticket will now allow residents free entry into the events later in the year.

The Parking ticket can be obtained by visiting the Link with your driving licence, V5C and proof of address.

It is much more important this year that residents register for FREE PARKING as parking charges will apply ALL YEAR ROUND from April in the park and will be enforced through an ANPR system.

Charges will apply to ALL NON RESIDENTS of Swanley for daily parking in the park and for entry

to these two events during the year.

FREE parking in the park and FREE entry to events CANNOT be guaranteed if you have not registered so take advantage of this offer by visiting the Link.

If you are not a vehicle owner, further details on how Swanley residents can obtain their free tickets to 1812 in the Park and Fireworks on the Rec will follow later in the year

For more information on projects in Swanley, look at the council's web site swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk or ring 01322 665 855

DID YOU KNOW YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREE PARKING IN SWANLEY PARK?

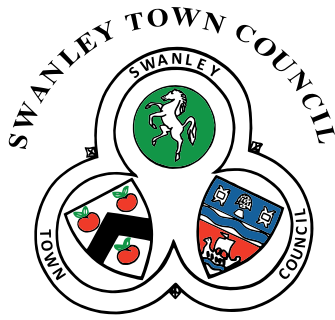
If you are a Swanley resident you are entitled to a FREE parking permit which can be obtained from the Link.

Simply take along proof of address, driving license and V5C and collect your permit.

It's much more important this year because we are going to introduce a charge £1 per person entry fee to 1812 and Bonfire Night to anyone who cannot show they are a resident of Swanley.

But if you have your permit you will get in for FREE

ANPR cameras are being installed at Swanley Park in March 2020 so don't get caught out because charges will apply ALL YEAR ROUND



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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.

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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 Mayor Councillor Lesley Dyball

Christmas and New Year celebrations are over, the decorations are down and here we are at the start of a new year and indeed a new decade. I hope you made the most of what was an extended break for many this year and, like me, spent time relaxing with family and loved ones.

The unseasonal mild weather has kept the snow away so far this winter, but Swanley had its very own snowfall, artificial of course, at our Light Up The Town celebrations on December 7th. Santa's Grotto had children queuing up which kept Santa extremely busy, and the festive attractions and live music entertained the crowds in the town centre all day until I switched on the Christmas Lights as darkness fell.

Remembrance Day on Sunday November 10th drew huge crowds lining the route for the Annual Parade from the town centre to St Mary's Church. The soldier silhouettes on the ASDA perimeter wall had their poppies refreshed by the Town Council, and several large poppy features above the soldiers were also added this year.

Volunteers from local uniform groups, Swanley

Rugby Football Club and the wider community were back in Remembrance Wood at Swanley Park at the end of November. Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group co-ordinated the planting of more saplings and spring bulbs in the area that was established last year. Let's look forward to a colourful display when the bulbs bloom in the Spring!

Our well-established community events which are put on by Swanley Town Council – St George's Day in the Town Centre, Armed Forces Day on the Recreation Ground and the 1812 Festival in Swanley Park – provided more attractions and entertainment this year and saw record numbers attending. As local residents please do come along and support these events, which are advertised in the Town Crier during the year and on posters and banners throughout the town.

During my second year as Mayor I have been able to visit more groups, organisations and businesses in Swanley. Thank you for the warm welcome I receive wherever I go in the town and I hope to meet even more of you as my term of office begins to draw to a close in May.

With every good wish

*Lesley
Dyball*

Mayor of Swanley
Town Council

A word from the CEO

It goes without saying that I offer all residents of Swanley a Happy and Prosperous New Year and know that we will all see improvements across the town in 2020.

This year will see new Splash facilities in the park with the town council investing over £350,000 in replacing the old pool in Swanley Park so there is more water and more jets and fountains to entertain the little ones.

The Woodlands has now been sold and some of this money will be used to improve existing facilities and to increase the assets owned by the town council for sustainable future income. A new care facility will now be built on the site of the Woodlands which will hopefully provide future services for our older residents.

A new 'Doggie Day Care' facility is being prepared in Swanley Park that will care for pets while visitors play and where people can drop off pets

for short periods and have them looked after at all times. We expect this to be ready before the start of the new season in April.

Last year we obtained the Local Council Award which recognises the professional way in which the town council is run and supports its staff and local residents. This would not have been possible if your locally elected councillors had not all attended training to ensure they fully understand their roles here. In the next few weeks we will be applying for the Gold Award which is the highest level that can be obtained by a Town Council of this size.

Both myself and your councillors are eager to engage with you to address issues across the town and would encourage you all to contact us with any concerns you might have.

I look forward to meeting many more residents over the coming year

Best wishes

Steve Nash
CEO

Town Council Events 2020

Annual Town Meeting

Alexandra Suite
Wednesday 25th March
7:30pm



St George's Day

Swanley Town Centre
Saturday 25th April
11:00am - 4:00pm

Activities, Crafts,
Displays, Stalls,
Children's Rides &
Punch & Judy
shows

Something for
all the family to enjoy

ARMED FORCES DAY

Saturday 27th June
Swanley Recreation Ground
11:00am - 4:00pm

Activities | Crafts
Displays | Children's Rides
Stalls



1812 FESTIVAL



Swanley Park
Friday 28th August
Fireworks, Live Music,
Activities, Kid's rides
and stalls

Folk Festival

Saturday 29th
August at
SWANLEY PARK

- Live Bands
- Bar
- Food Stalls
- All park activities



BONFIRE NIGHT



Swanley Recreation Ground
FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day Parade



Sunday 8th November
2:30pm

from Swanley Town Centre

Light Up The Town

Saturday 5th
December
Swanley Town Centre

Activities,
Crafts, Displays,
Children's Rides
Stalls



For further information on stall bookings and
joining our events

Please call Toni Roast on 01322 665 855 or
Email: TRoast@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
to find out more.



Can you spare a couple of hours?

Make a difference this year by joining us and taking part in the

Great British Spring Clean 2020

Swanley Town Council are looking for people to help litter pick in Swanley!

20th - 23rd March

if you are interested in getting involved please contact Toni on 01322 665855



New Facilities for Swanley

There are significant changes planned for Swanley which will no doubt change the whole look of the town.

Town Developers U & I are to start re-building the shopping centre in 2020 and providing over 300 flats as part of their multi million pound investment in the town and the District Council are to spend £19 million on a new Leisure Centre.

If that wasn't enough the Town Council is hoping to provide a new Health Hub facility for the town as the current surgery it owns has been outgrown by local demand.

The Town Council has also just obtained planning permission to convert one of its barns into a Softplay facility which will open in the early part of 2020 along with new Rugby Field & Club facilities.

The CEO for Swanley Town Council Mr Steve Nash said 'some of these developments have not been well received by local residents so I am glad that it is the Town Council that are looking to provide facilities that local residents have asked for'.

A new £346,000 Splash Pool is currently being constructed in the park and is due to be ready for the start of the season in April 2020 in addition to extended toilet block and picnic tables around the park. *(see photos below)*

With the park now seeing around 3000 visitors a day during peak times it has been important for the town council to respond to this need.

For more information on projects in Swanley, look at the council's web site www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk or ring 01322 665855



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ST GEORGE'S DAY

Saturday 25th April 2020

Live Music



Food & Drink



Punch & Judy



Balloon Modelling



Craft Stalls




Stilt Walkers

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& BEST DRESSED DAMSEL

11AM - 4PM

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Piccalilly's cafe
At The Swanley Link
07826849762

Piccalilly Café in Swanley Link has now opened!

Opening Times
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 Tuesday 9.30-4.00
 Wednesday 9.30-4.00
 Thursday 9.30-4.00
 Friday 9.30-4.00
 Saturday 9.30-1.00

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St George's Day
Saturday 25th April 2020
Swanley Town Centre
11.00am- 4.00pm



Would you like to have a craft or community stall
 at our St Georges Day event?

For more information email Toni at
troast@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk



Swanley History Group

At our autumn meetings we were delighted to welcome some first-timers who had read about us in Swanley Town Crier.

During our December meeting we struggled to identify an assortment of mysterious objects, brought from Dartford Museum by archaeologist and local historian Chris Baker, an example being an eel spear.

We meet on the first Tuesday of each month, 7.15pm for 7.30pm start at The Alexandra Suite, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU.

At first meeting of 2020 on Tuesday 7 January when committee member Esme Hodge presented 'The Horrible History of Hextable', exploring the darker side of this local village, pre 1066 to the present day.

Many Swanley families have links to Greater London so we are sure that Alan Payne's virtual tour of The Old Kent Road at our meeting on 4 February will be popular.

Our Annual General Meeting takes place on 3 March and if you are fascinated by The Brink's Mat Gold Bullion Robbery and the characters involved, do not miss our meeting on 7 April.

If you grew up in Swanley and the surrounding area we would be delighted to hear from you about the things you remember and stories passed on by relatives.

Have a look at our website for examples already sent to us.

Our researchers have been busy delving into family history resources, newspapers of the time and also contacting relatives in search of facts and photographs about the men commemorated on Swanley War Memorial and civilian casualties from the Swanley area who died in World War II for a book we plan to publish in 2020.

If you can help us please contact our committee member Ann Hollands, mobile 0795 205 0898, or email swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

For further information visit our website www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com, telephone Terry Morris – 0788 449 3894 or email swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk

Christina Tyler, Programme Organiser





UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

One of the activities enjoyed by members of the Swanley and District U3A is a trip to the theatre, either a big West End blockbuster musical or a more intimate play. However, most of our trips are to the West End for evening performances as it is easy for members to make their own arrangements to visit local theatres such as The Orchard. Our London theatre trips also include coach travel from Hextable or Swanley, being dropped off and picked up right outside the theatre, and for those of us who enjoy a pre-theatre or interval tittle there are no worries about driving home.

Because we have a large membership, we are able to purchase group rate tickets at very advantageous prices and have the opportunity to purchase tickets for shows not yet open and therefore yet to be appraised by professionals or the general public. We recently bought tickets for Tina the Musical and 9-5 before they opened, at less than half price, and by the time we went to see them it was almost impossible to get tickets!

One of the great things about being part of our theatre goers group is that both couples and singles can enjoy a theatre trip with like-minded people, and if you and your partner have different tastes in theatre, you know that you can go along on your own, but you won't be lonely.

We alert the group to special offers being made to U3A members as individuals and these not only give access to cheaper seats but often include a question and answer session afterwards with the cast.

We try to organise three or four trips a year with a variety of genres to ensure everyone's tastes are catered for. We don't meet as a formal group on a regular basis, but meet up for a very sociable time on the coach or chat over possible things to see during coffee at the monthly meetings and use the notice board at our monthly meetings to keep members informed of performances by our wonderful thriving local amateur theatres at, for example, the Edward Alderton in Bexleyheath or The Geoffrey Whitworth at Crayford and members bring advertising material for smaller amateur societies in which they may be involved.

So if you are no longer in full time employment and you enjoy the theatre, why not join us on the first Friday morning of the month at the Alexandra Suite Swanley and put your name down as a theatre goer, make new friends and see what other groups we have that may whet your appetite.

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

Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group (SWAN)

'Creating habitats for wildlife and the community to enjoy in Swanley'

Swanley Town Council wanted to mark the Millennium in a permanent way, and it was decided that a nature reserve for the local community to enjoy, would be an innovative addition to the Parish. Therefore, a small parcel of land of nearly 2 acres at the top of Swanley Park was set aside in the year 2000.

Advice was sought from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) and North West Kent Countryside Project about suitable wildflower plants, trees and shrubs to attract wildlife to the area. In Spring 2001 the scheme started with over 40 volunteers helping to plant 1 400 wild flower plug plants and 25 trees and shrubs. Following this initial planting, volunteers formed the Swanley and District Environment Group continued work in the nature reserve since 2001, adding new hedge areas, planting many trees, creating habitats, paths, wild flower areas, bug hotels and making bird boxes for the area.

The group was renamed "Swanley Wildlife And Nature Group" in January 2010.

The group joined TCV and have regular working parties throughout the year to further their work. Children including local Cub, Scout, Brownie groups and local schools have had educational fun identifying trees, birds and flowers in the area and helping out. Around 1000 hedgerow trees have so far been planted in the nature reserve. Volunteers from the community have spent over 2000 hours working on activities since the group's conception. Swanley Town Council support the group by carrying out tasks such as grass strimming and mowing paths.

We have achieved environmental awards for our work in the community including a Silver Gilt award for South East In Bloom 2019.

The group has also undertaken environmental community work within the parish. Examples are Churchyard clearance at St Mary's Church, Swanley and St Paul's Church, Swanley Village. In November 2018, an acre of land in Swanley Park was planted up with over 600 tree saplings to form a WW1 remembrance wood/area. In autumn 2019, 1000 mixed spring bulbs were planted in the area by the community.

The group has arranged an itinerary of events, which can be accessed on our Facebook site (search Swanley Wildlife and Nature Group) or their website. If you would like to come along to take part in any of the activities, then please let us know.

Contact details can be found:
<https://www.swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk/swanley-wildlife-and-nature-group/>

Richard Maile Chair | Liz Davies Secretary

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Wednesday 19th February
Friday 21st February

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1pm - 2pm

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Competition starts 7:45pm

Round Robin Straight KO
(number dependent)



QUIZ Night

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OF THE MONTH**

Entry £2.00 per person

Start 8.00pm

Maximum 6 people
per team



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visit westkent.org

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

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- £150 for 10 Children | £15 for additional child
- Maximum 20 children
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Swanley Beating The Bounds Walk

Swanley & District Twinning Association are arranging a Walk on Sunday 29th March starting at The Café in Swanley Park.

The walk is being led by Mark Fittock and will start at 10:00am and finish at approximately 2:00pm, the Café will be open for refreshments after the walk. It comprises of around 8 miles and covers all the boundary of Swanley.

Lesley Dyball, the Mayor will start us off and hopes to join us on the walk.

Please come along it should be an enjoyable day,



Swanley's Abandoned Trolleys

For many years Swanley residents have endured supermarket trolleys littering their streets and green open spaces due to the inconsiderate actions of a minority.

It should be noted that removal of trolleys from the boundary of a store represents theft. Swanley Town Council have had several meetings and numerous telephone conversations with the management team at Asda and Aldi in an attempt to resolve this potentially dangerous issue.

Unattended trolleys can easily roll into the path of oncoming vehicles, particularly when left at bus stops causing accidents.

Apart from being unsightly, some appropriated trolleys are being used to convey household waste and this represents a potential health hazard if these are not thoroughly cleaned upon return.

Just over a year ago, Asda agreed to install a magnetic barrier around the perimeter of their store and at the same time they applied a magnetic lock to a front wheel on all of their trolleys.

Initially this worked well, however, as not all had been converted, some customers still managed to remove trolleys from the store.

Trollywise (0800 316 1241) have a weekly collection service for Swanley and they collect abandoned trolleys on behalf of both Asda and Aldi.

However, Swanley Town Council regularly gather and store in excess of 70 trolleys weekly awaiting collection from Trollywise.

In an attempt to eradicate the problem of abandoned trolleys in the Sevenoaks district, Sevenoaks District Council have applied for a licence to operate within the Environmental Act.

This will facilitate the ability to apply charges for both the collection and storage of abandoned supermarket trolleys throughout all areas of Sevenoaks district.

However, the prime area of concern is Swanley where there are three supermarkets in the town centre, all within walking distance of the homes of the majority of residents.

A period of three months' notice will be given to the respective stores and as the application was only made in December 2019, we will have to wait until the end of March to enforce our intentions.



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more information 01322 613 900
sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk**

Visit: <http://www.swanley.org.uk/>



Mayor At Home

Afternoon Tea & Entertainment for the
Senior Citizens of Swanley!

11th February 2020

The Alexandra Suite

St Marys Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU

1.00pm - 3.30pm

To book your free place call 03000 421254
or visit Swanley Link

SOUL & MOTOWN

**Friday 28th
February 2020**

8:00pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

The Alexandra Suite, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU
01322 613900 | sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

**Dancing
Through
the
Decades**

**Friday 27th
March 2020**

The Alexandra Suite

8:00pm - Late

Tickets £10.00

The Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU
Call 01322 613900 or email sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

**Let's Go Back to the
80s & 90s**

**Friday 24th
April 2020**

8pm-Late

Tickets £10.00

The Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU
Call 01322 613900 or email sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

**WELCOME
RAT PACK
LIVE TRIBUTE**

**Saturday 25th April
7:30pm - Late**

**£21 per person to include Basket Meal
Scampi / Chicken / Pizza**

The Olympic

Beechenlea Lane, Swanley, Kent BR8 8DR
Call 01322 613900 / sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk for more information

NEW EVENT

**MICHAEL JACKSON
LIVE TRIBUTE & LATE DJ**

RORY JACKSON AS SEEN ON BRITAIN'S GOT TALENT

Alexandra Suite

**Friday 5th June
7:30pm - Late
£10 per person**

Call 01322 613900 / sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk



TOWN Crier magazine

Do you have an event or business you would like to promote in the next edition of the Town Crier?

The Town Crier is distributed to 6,500 homes in Swanley and surrounding areas!

Please call Suzie Barnbrook on 01322 665 855 to find out more information including advertising rate's.