magazine

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



Swanley Park in Kent has been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best in the world. Swanley Park joins 1883 other green spaces that have been awarded recognition across the world. The park is among a recordbreaking number of parks and green spaces that will today receive a prestigious Green Flag Award - the mark of a quality park or green space. This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

Park Manager Ryan Hayman said: "We are absolutely delighted to receive a Green Flag Award, this is a true testament to the hard work staff have put in to ensure the Park is safe, fun, accessible and clean for all to use. We now want to defend our flag

and improve Swanley Park further, with the with more Green Flags awarded this end goal of making a Park which is fit for now and the future. We know how much quality green spaces matter to residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining Swanley Park to such a high standard." International Green Flag Award scheme manager Paul Todd said: "We are delighted to be celebrating another record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award scheme,

year than last year. Each flag honours the thousands of staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to maintain the high standards demanded by the Green Flag Award. We are proud to have so many wonderful green spaces in the UK for people to enjoy, and hope that next year, we award even more flags."



In this edition



Update From Kent Police









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TOWNCrier

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Councillors and Wards

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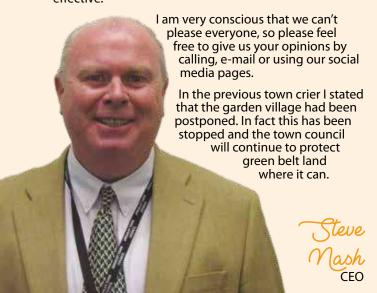
A word from the CEO

The sun is certainly shining on Swanley this year and we have seen huge increases in the number of people visiting our facilities with our Award-Winning Park at the forefront of activities.

Our events have doubled in size this year with Armed Forces seeing around 4000 visitors throughout the day and 1812 Festival going from one day to now, two days.

We are about to take back grass cutting contracts from Kent County Council which will allow us to cut more often and to react more effectively to areas of concern around the town.

We are working much more closely with local organisations and with other local authorities to 'get more for our bucks' and this is proving to be very effective.



A word from the Mayor **Councillor Lesley Dyball**

This is an exciting time for me as Mayor with so many positive things going on in the town and lots of new development proposals to enhance local services.

With the sale of the Woodlands we will be looking to support the improvement of facilities which provide positive support to our residents, such as The Oaks Surgery and local play areas.

Our Flag Ship facility this year must be Swanley Park as we won a Green Flag Award and the Awards won by Swanley Environmental



Lesley Dyball

> Mayor of Swanley

Sevenoaks District Council Draft Local Plan Consultation

On Monday 16th July 2018 Sevenoaks District Council commenced a public consultation on the Sevenoaks District Draft Local Plan. The consultation period extends over 8 weeks ending at 5pm on Monday 10th September 2018. Swanley Town Council has more information on its website www.

swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk, you should also have a copy of the Summer 2018 edition of SDC's In Shape magazine, you will find a copy of the 'Pull Out & Keep Planning Policy Special'.

There will be a number of drop-in events across the District over the summer

where you can find out about the Draft Local Plan with proposals for new homes, employment, retail and other infrastructure improvements up to 2035 across the District and in your area. Your local drop-in session is on 29th August 2018 at the Swanley Link between **2pm – 8pm** where you can meet the Planning Policy Team to find out more about the plan and what is proposed for Swanley and the surrounding area.

In the meantime the Local councillors have met and composed a draft response to proposed areas for development

(draft can be found on the Swanley Town Council website) but this requires some amendment and will be discussed at the next Full Council on the 5th September 2018 - details can be found on the

website or Facebook. **Swanley Town Council** ask you to please take time out to look through the local plan and comment directly to Sevenoaks District Council



www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/draftlocalplan

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.

towncouncil@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk **Email:**

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.

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INCLUDING DIGITAL RETINAL PHOTOGRAPHY





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Swanley Swanley Shopping Centre. Tel 01322 616 465





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Update from Kent Police



As the Kent Police Inspector responsible for Community Safety in Sevenoaks District, I am proud to serve Swanley. The town has a great sense of community and a strong partnership between Police and other agencies, including the Town Council. I wanted to share some updates with you about the work we have been doing in the last few months and some of my common messages to communities. Our Community Safety Unit is a partnership of many organisations. On a daily basis, we share information amongst our partners, ensuring we are all aware of concerns raised by residents - be it antisocial behaviour, suspicious activity or crime. A good example of how effective this can be

was published by Sevenoaks District

Council earlier this year, when a

premises on Sycamore Drive was issued with a closure order by the Courts, following extensive work by a number of agencies and evidence from the community.



This highlights the importance of contacting us about concerns in the community. Whilst we cannot guarantee attendance at every incident reported, residents should be reassured that we review all reports of antisocial behaviour and suspicious activity in the community and task appropriate follow-up action. If incidents and crimes go unreported, we cannot respond in a timely or effective way before the issue escalates. We have now launched Online Reporting for non-emergency incidents and crimes and would encourage residents to use this: www.kent.police. uk/services/report-online/

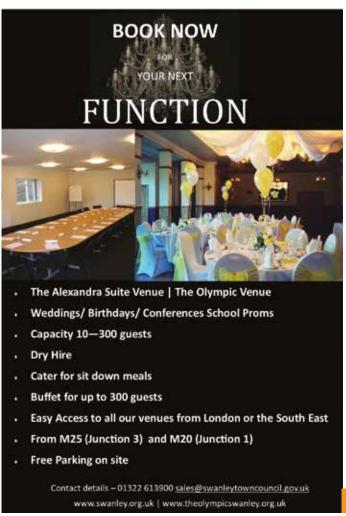
I would also emphasise the importance of being confident to use 999. If it appears a crime is in progress, or suspects are still nearby, people should call 999.

A new addition to the Police family joined us in Swanley in July, in the form of Community Policing Volunteer (CPV) Oana Girboan. We are one of only two districts in Kent to benefit from this new role and Oana will be on patrol in the town regularly, as a volunteer with some policing powers. However, her role is primarily about engagement and listening to concerns in the community, so if you see her out and about do speak to her.

Finally, we are proud of how active we are on Twitter, sharing information about crime in the area, action we are taking and updating you about what we have been doing each day. I would encourage anyone with Twitter to follow us (@kentpolice7oaks) to see what we have been doing and get in touch with us.

Nick Finnis | Inspector





SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL SENIOR PASSPORT TO LEISURE SCHEME

Please find below details of the Passport to Leisure trips for October, November & December 2018.

Booking forms and further information regarding the trips is available at The Swanley Link, London Road, BR8 7AE. Telephone: 03000 421 270 or 03000 421 254 Email: csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk.

ROYAL COURTS OF JUSTICE

Tuesday 2nd October 2018

Built in 1805 and opened by Queen Victoria in 1882 the Royal Court of Justice was designed in Victorian gothic style by George Edmund Street. It is one of the largest courts in Europe. The main gates on the Strand open up to elaborately carved porches fitted with iron gates. The grand hall is magnificent in style and huge in size. At either end of the hall are marble galleries from which the entire main hall can be viewed. The tour will begin at 11.00am and last approx. 90 mins. Once the tour is completed you will have the opportunity to purchase lunch at nearby cafes and restaurants.

Depart The Civic Centre: 8.30am Depart Courts: 4.30pm £32.50 per person





FAVERSHAM BREWERY TOUR

Thursday 15th November 2018

The trip will begin with a visit to Faversham, Kent's oldest market town where lunch can be purchased at the Sun or Bear Inn a short walk from the brewery. The 2 hour tour of Faversham Brewery will begin at 14.45pm The tour will give you the opportunity to see brewery & fermentation vessels, try some malted barley, locally grown hops and visit the Old Brewery Store. The tour ends with a traditional tasting of Shepherd Neame Kentish ales & speciality lagers. PLEASE NOTE: The brewery is a working site and has a number of steps and uneven surfaces. Practical footwear that covers the whole foot must be worn. VISITORS WEARING OPEN-TOED SHOES OR HIGH HEELS WILL NOT BE

PERMITTED. Depart The Civic Centre: 11.30am Depart Faversham: 5.00pm - £35.40 per person

WINCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET

Thursday 6th December 2018

Winchester Christmas Market is recognised as one of the best in Europe, renowned for its handpicked high quality exhibitors and bustling atmosphere. The market is inspired by traditional German Christmas markets. Pretty wooden chalets are situated in the cathedral's historic Inner Close surrounding a real ice rink.

Depart The Civic Centre: 9.00am Depart Winchester: 4.00pm £22.25 per person



DICK WHITTINGTON THE STAG THEATRE

Tuesday 18th December 2018

The Stag Theatre celebrates its 10th anniversary pantomime with the spectacular Dick Whittington. The show will be brought to life with performances from Britain's Got Talent star Danny Beard and The Stags favourite baddie, Jasette Amos. Expect laugh-out-loud comedy, stunning scenery and beautiful costumes.

Depart The Civic Centre: 12.00pm Depart The Stag: 4.00pm £38.50 per person

The Swanley Link

London Road, Swanley Kent BR8 7AE
Telephone: 03000 421270 or 03000 421254
E-mail: csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk



KentARA Roadshow in Swanley

Kent Active Retirement Association (KentARA) held their latest Health and Wellbeing Roadshow at the Alexandra Suite, St Marys Road, Swanley on the 19th June, as part of the celebrations marking the 21st anniversary of the inaugural meeting of the Swanley Active Retirement Association (SwanARA). The Roadshow, which is being organised by the KentARA Membership Secretary Andrea Ellerby, is aimed at the 82 Active Retirement Associations in Kent under the KentARA umbrella, and their 11,000 members. The roadshow was opened by the new Swanley Mayor Councillor Leslie Dyball, who also cut the 21st birthday cake. The Roadshow included talks on Exercise and Nutrition by Andrea Ellerby, an exercise demonstration of Senior

Elastixs by Jan Elci, where the members were encouraged to join in. This was followed by a refreshment break, and then continued with talks on Banking Safety & Scams and a talk on dementia, both by Claire Oldfield of Nat West Bank. The Roadshow then concluded with a musical interlude by Marcus Chambers. The meeting was attended by Shirley Skinner the current President of KentARA, as well as a previous President Gerald Benham, who had attended the inaugural meeting of SwanARA in 1997. Also attending were members of other local Active Retirement Associations in Crockenhill, Wilmington, Dartford, Joydens Wood, Hartley and Allington. Amongst the current SwanARA membership there are twenty members

who were at the formation of the Club, so have now enjoyed twenty-one years of monthly meetings, with a wide range of speakers. London and local walks, meals out, ten pin bowling and outings to the Household Cavalry Museum, the Biddenden Vineyard, the Whitechapel Bell Foundry and a Thames River Cruise. Details of the KentARA Clubs can be found on the web site http//kentara. weebly.com and details membership of SwanARA can be obtained from Linda on 01322 408663 or Ray on 01322 663541. Membership of clubs such as these are a way to combat senior loneliness, which is a current topic of concern.



Swanley Mayor Councillor Lesley Dyball



Andrea Ellerby talking at the KentARA Roadshow

SwanARA Celebrate their 21st Birthday with a Roadshow & Mayor's visit.

Swanley Active Retirement Association (SwanARA) were pleased to invite the new Swanley Mayor Councillor Lesley Dyball to open their meeting on the 19th June at the Alexandra Suite, and to cut the 21st birthday cake, which was in celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the club's formation. The meeting then went on to enjoy the KentARA Health and Wellbeing Roadshow, which is being taken around the existing 82 Kent Clubs, and the 11,000 members that are under KentARA's membership Amongst the current SwanARA membership are twenty members who joined at the formation of the

Club, so have now enjoyed twenty-

one years of monthly meetings, with many interesting speakers. They have also enjoyed, local and London walks, lunches out, ten pin bowling and outings to the Tower of London, the Albert Hall, the Poppy Factory at Richmond and Chartwell to name but a few. Details of the KentARA Clubs can be found on the web site http//kentara. weebly.com and membership details for SwanARA can be obtained from Linda on 01322 408663 or Ray on 01322 663541. Membership of clubs such as these are a way to combat senior loneliness, which is a current topic of concern to many. Umbrella, by the KentARA Membership Secretary Andrea Ellerby. The Roadshow

consists of talks by Andrea on Exercise and Nutrition, an exercise demonstration of Senior Elastixs by Jan Elci, talks on banking safety & scams and a talk on dementia, both by Claire Oldfield of Nat West Bank, and finished with a musical interlude by Marcus Chambers. Attending the meeting, were the current President of KentARA, Shirley Skinner, and a previous President Gerald Benham, who had been at the original inaugural meeting of SwanARA in 1997. Also present were members of other local Active Retirement Associations in Crockenhill, Hartley, Allington, Joydens Wood, Wilmington and Dartford.

THE ALEXANDRA SUITE

EVENTS CALENDAR 2018











For more events... and other information about the venue please visit our website www.swanley.org.uk

Christmas and New Year's Eve



Christmas Basket Meal & Disco - Friday 7 December
Casino Dinner and Disco - Friday 14 December
Only Fools & Horses Dinner & Disco - Saturday 15 December
Christmas Basket Meal & Disco - Friday 21 December
Family NYE Party - Monday 31 December
NYE Dinner & Dance - Monday 31 December

01322 613 900

sales@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk www.swanley.org.uk St Mary's Road|Swanley|Kent|BR8 7BU

The Olympic EVENTS CALENDAR 2018

FIRST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH



Open Mic Night
First Thursday of every Month
From 7.30pm

FIRST FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH



Karaoke Night
Fun for your friends and
work colleagues from 7:30pm

SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH



Quiz Night From 8.00pm £2.00 per person

ELVIS TRIBUTE with GARY KING



Saturday 27th October 7:30pm to Late - £20.00 Includes Basket Meal Chicken | Scampi | Pizza





Saturday 1st December - 7.00pm - 12.00am Rod Stewart Tribute Night

Friday 7th December - 7.30pm until late Christmas Karaoke

Thursday 13th December - 8.00pm start Christmas Quiz

Saturday 15th December - 7.00pm - 12.00am

Michael Bublé Tribute

SWANLEY TOWN COUNCIL

FOR ALL BOOKING ENQUIRIES
PLEASE CALL 01322 669201
THE OLYMPIC | BEECHENLEA LANE,
SWANLEY | KENT | BR8 8DR

Save the date to defibrillate with free training event

Residents across the Sevenoaks District will have the opportunity to become life-saving experts with a free training event that offers defibrillator and first aid training.

The training session has been organised by Sevenoaks District Council and will take place on Saturday 29 September at 9.30am at the Council offices on Argyle Road, Sevenoaks.

The session will be delivered by Sevenoaks Community First Responders who provide basic everyday first aid training on CPR, choking, allergic reactions and diabetic emergencies. The training also covers how to use Automated External Defibrillator, with around 60 of these installed across the District.

Cllr Michelle Lowe, Sevenoaks Cabinet Member for Health and Leisure, says: "Ultimately, this training could save a life. Cardiac arrest is a leading killer in the UK so it is vital that more people are trained because you never know when you or someone you love will need it".

Places can be reserved free of charge by calling Sevenoaks District Council 01732 227000 or by emailing healthyliving@sevenoaks.gov.uk

It is advised that residents make sure they can commit to the day before reserving due to limited places. Residents will be charged a cancellation fee of £30 if they book and do not attend.

Residents can find the locations of their nearest defibrillator by going to www.heartsafe.org.uk

DONT DROP IT

REMEMBER Just Bin It 2018

The "Just Bin It" competition takes place each year in conjunction with Swanley In Bloom. There are three categories 4-6 year old, 7-9 year old and 10+. This year there were a bumper amount of entries especially in the 7-9 age group.

The Mayor of Swanley Cllr Lesley Dyball had a really tough task in selecting those to receive prizes. Here is the poste which received the Outstanding award together with the posters that gained Highly Commended and Honours.





Honours 7 - 9

Honours and overall winner 10+



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Highly Commended 10+

Honours in 4 - 6





Highly Commended 7 - 9

Highly Commended 7 - 9

The End of an Era

On Saturday 21st July the Ellenor charity shop in Swanley closed its doors for the last time because the block in which it is situated is being redeveloped. It was the end of an era for Swanley and North Downs (SAND) Lions club also, because club members and their partners have been running the shop, and its predecessor, every Saturday morning for the past 31 years.





In 1984 the Club (then known as Farningham & District Lions) joined a project, led by Gravesend Lions, to build a hospice for NW Kent. Together with Dartford and Northfleet the four clubs embarked on the task of turning an initial anonymous £200k donation into £1.5m. On 9th October 1984 The Lions Hospice Project was formally launched. As part of their fund raising efforts SAND Lions sought to open a charity shop in Swanley town centre. In 1987,

with the unstinting support of the then Mayor, Cllr Geoff Blaxall, a small shop was provided for use by the club, without charge, on condition it would be vacated at short notice when required. The club took up the offer and with the help of a small band of volunteers began trading and donating all profits to the Lions Hospice Appeal fund. It was then that the club members began their 31 years of serving in the shop on Saturday mornings.



1n 1991 the club was given notice that the block was going to be demolished, a new road put through, and a new building erected (now the YMCA Charity shop). Not willing to give up on the fund raising potential for the Lions Hospice Project, the club sought new premises, finally taking on the shop which has just closed. It traded as 'health' shop, sauna and beauty spa so the members set about converting it and making it suitable for trading as a charity shop.

The Lions Hospice Project finally reached it's £1.5m target, a brand new purpose built building was erected and in 1992 the Lions Hospice opened its doors to patients. The trading arm of the company eventually took over the

running of the shop from the Lions, but club members continued to serve in it every Saturday morning, throughout the name change to Ellenor, until it's closure in July 2018.

In 1987, weeks before the original shop opened, the Lions were worrying about what they were going to have for sale. Within a month of opening they were worrying about how they were going to cope with the amount of stock donated. The folk of Swanley and surrounding areas have continued their generous support ever since, and for that the Lions, and Ellenor, are truly grateful.

Colin McRobert MBE Charter Member Swanley & North Downs Lions Club

Double Winners for Wildlife!



Swanley Wildlife & Nature Group has been awarded 1st Place and given a Certificate of Excellence for its work in the Environment Area, Swanley Park in the Best Community Environmental Project category of Swanley in Bloom 2018.

The group has also been awarded 2nd Place in the same category in the overall Sevenoaks District In Bloom competition being Highly Commended, just being pipped to the

Richard Mail (SWAN Chair) said that "we were really delighted to be recognised for all the efforts made over the years in the Environment Area".

The Judges from Coolings Nursery who organised the competition said that the Area was an "exceptional" example of environmental community work. Richard continued to say that "these awards go a long way to reinforce what we are trying to achieve in the Environment Area by creating a really diverse haven for wildlife, which can be enjoyed by all the community and **SWAN** members.

This has been reinforced by the contribution the group made to **Swanley Town Council recently being** awarded the Green Flag award for Swanley Park over summer". New Volunteers are always welcome from anywhere, not just Swanley.

Drop us a line on our website www.freewebs.com/swanleyenvirogroup or contact Swanley Town Council 01322 665855 for further details. 11



The Royal British Legion Swanley, Crockenhill and Hextable Branch



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF JOINING THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION?

Men and women over the age of 18 are welcome to become a member, whether they have served or not. Membership in our Branch is only £19 a year. For those under 18 there is a special, free, youth membership.

Join our network, build relationships and share great experiences with like-minded people in one of our local or national branches.

Membership is an excellent way to get involved in all that the Legion does. As a member you can, for example, provide support through our Branch Community Support programme, reaching out to those in need near you.

Through Membership, you can help others and feel good about it!

Whether it's fundraising, helping out at Remembrance events or getting involved with our welfare support members contribute to making sure that we are able to deliver services for our beneficiaries.

As part of your membership you will also receive:

An annual membership card

Access to purchase members-only products from the Poppy Shop Regular communications including the Legion Magazine and Membership e-Newsletter

Interested? Then please contact Jean Needham on 01322 666453

VOLUNTEER FOR THE POPPY APPEAL TO HELP THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY



FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS WE HAVE RAISED OVER £35,000 EACH YEAR.

CAN YOU HELP US TO RAISE EVEN MORE IN 2018

IF YOU COULD SPARE JUST A COUPLE OF HOURS DURING THE APPEAL FORTNIGHT IT WOULD BE A GREAT HELP.

PLEASE CONTACT Jacky Allen on 01322 666007

LIVE ON







Book an eye test online

Swanley Swanley Shopping Centre. Tel 01322 616 465











Swanley Park Junior Rangers

Are you looking for things for the kids to do this summer that will not only keep them busy but will teach them real life skills and help them improve the quality of life for others (Almost like Work Experience)



Well, we are looking for volunteer Junior Rangers to provide our staff some additional support during the summer holidays.

Between 9am and 5pm every day we will supervise the volunteers in a range of tasks, such as

- Renting out the boats
- Litter picking

- Supervising the bouncy castle and water pools
- Handing out balloons
- Wet down mats
- Help with children's parties
- Moving branches.
- Helping people with disabilities and much more

What will your kids get from it?

We will give them a Swanley Park Rangers T Shirt and hi-viz vest, every hour they will get free access to one of the activities (bouncy castle, go karts, pedalo, wet area, mini golf), we will provide them with drinks throughout the day and a snack at lunch time.

We can take a maximum of 6 children between the ages of 11 and 15 for this activity and each child will get a 5 day placement during the week over the summer holidays.

Want more info then ring Ryan on 01322 665855 Or e-mail rhayman@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk



