

## Swanley flies the flag once again!

Swanley Town Council is raising three Green Flag Awards at Swanley Park, Swanley Recreation Ground and Elephant Park.

The award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

After 18 months that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, the news that Swanley has three parks that have achieved the Green Flag Award is an amazing reward for the hard work and dedication of the team that make green spaces wonderful places that everyone can enjoy.

Commenting on the news that Swanley has achieved the Green Flag Award standard, Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said: "I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making the town a three times over worthy recipient of the Green Flag Award.

To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff

and volunteers who do so much to ensure the high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management."

Park and Open Spaces Manager George Brooker said "Our team work tirelessly throughout the year, without their work these achievements would not be possible.

The Green Flag standard ensures Swanley residents have some of the best parks in the country to enjoy."

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.



**5** Remembrance Recognition for Women



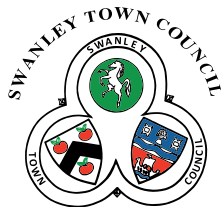
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Please note: All events and news carried in this edition of The Town Crier is current at the time of going to press but may be subject to change due to weather conditions.

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# A word from the Mayor Councillor Paul Darrington

I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas. Leaving 2021 behind us, we have much to reflect upon.

At least social restrictions are not so punishing as last winter and hopefully the vaccination programme will soon allow us all to resume our normal lives.

As I come into my final months as Mayor, the last eight months have been enjoyable and during this tenure I have met many interesting people and attended numerous functions.

Most recently and locally, these include Remembrance Sunday on the 14th November which was, as ever, very well attended including our very supportive MP Laura Trott.

More recently we had Light Up The Town which was also very well attended.



Our Christmas Tree for 2021 was nothing less than magnificent and certainly the best that I have ever seen in Swanley.

Hopefully, this will be replicated at our next Christmas display.

Due to COVID-19, I understand that many of you may be feeling lonely and isolated but there are still opportunities for residents to leave their homes and meet people in safety.

With Swanley Park on our doorstep this is certainly worth a visit as the scenery particularly around the lake is quite spectacular, even in the winter months.

After a pleasant walk you can enjoy refreshments at the café which is situated at the side of the lake.

For those who are more energetic, every Saturday at 9am there is a 5k walk/run in the park and if you are interested contact <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/swanley> for more information.

The totally new White Oak Sports facility opened on 12th February 2022 and this, while not supporting all of the amenities that the old complex provided, will still provide a swimming pool with a retractable floor.

One of my chosen charities is the Cygnet Club, which caters for adults with learning disabilities. They are based in Wilmington and meet every Thursday from 7.00pm. to 9.00pm.

If you are interested, please contact Tracey on 0791 2746555.

I would like to thank everyone who has given support to me during my mayoral year and I look forward to meeting more Swanley residents in 2022.

With very best wishes and hope that you all have a happy and healthy New Year.

To visit the website, scan in the QR Code opposite with your tablet or mobile phone.  
[www.parkrun.org.uk/swanley](https://www.parkrun.org.uk/swanley)



*Paul Darrington*  
Mayor of Swanley Town Council

## Our CEO



2022 is well and truly underway and although the Omicron variant hit, we have adapted accordingly.

Our staff have worked tirelessly in the face of the obvious challenges to keep services running, and this meant that we have much to reflect upon from the past few months.

Winter is historically a busy period for our venues, and this year was no exception.

November and December were bumper months for

the Alexandra Suite as there was seemingly, functions booked 24/7!

Panto season struck as Shooting Star Entertainments put on a great show of Jack & The Beanstalk.

Christmas Karaoke fun was had at The Olympic earlier on in December with the event returning every first Friday of the month onwards.

The Olympic has also had a jukebox installed which doubles up as a photobooth.

New Year's Eve at the Alexandra Suite finished off the year and a great night was had by all; such was the success of the event shows, as people are already rebooking for this year.

## Our CEO Continued

Elsewhere, the Town Council hosted a Christmas Light's Switch On.

The event was well attended, and the lights looked magnificent on the 35ft Christmas Tree.

Santa has already confirmed attendance for 2022's Light Up The Town Event.

Winter flowers have once again filled our planters, and these will remain in place until late spring or early summer depending on the climate.

Looking forward, we have many events planned for the town.

These are revealed on page 15 and include the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations.

Swanley Park is typically quieter in the winter, however this year we have our new Soft Play Centre open.

This has proved a popular attraction for parties and walk-ins. Come February half-term the park activities start to re-open and can be enjoyed, of course weather depending.

At the park we are also working with a local football club to provide new football facilities in Swanley, with

the current underutilised field west of the park is the preferred site for the club.

The field was once a temporary rugby pitch for Swanley RFU, but we are now working with the rugby club to provide them a new 'forever' home at The Olympic.

In the Town Centre, we have been working with The Cedars, The Oaks, NHS England and the new centre owners on progressing plans to improve Swanley's health services.

The good news is we now have a preferred site and basic plan agreed between all parties for the provision of a new Health Hub facility.

Should these plans come to fruition, then residents would benefit from more services and appointments.

I wish you all good health and look forward to providing you another update in Spring.

*Ryan M Hayman*  
CEO

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# Remembrance Recognition for Women

In 2018 and with support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, local business and Councillors, Swanley Town Council installed 112 stainless steel silhouettes on the 'ASDA' wall running through the middle of town.

This was a mark of respect to those who gave their lives in WW1. Now Swanley has expanded its remembrance tribute.

Two statues coined the 'Unknown Woman' have been installed on the same wall.

These special edition statues are designed to help the nation commemorate and recognise the bravery and sacrifices of women in war.

They have been purchased directly from the Royal British Legion.

This means funds have gone to the charity which provides financial, social and emotional support to members and veterans of the British Armed Forces, their families and dependants.

Leader of Swanley Town Council Michael Horwood said: "We wanted to ensure the memorial not only

commemorated the brave soldiers who gave their lives fighting for their country and our freedom, but also recognised the unsung work of Swanley women working on the frontline and locally to contribute to the war efforts, with many still experiencing the horrors of war."

Chief Executive Officer Ryan Hayman commented "It is important to keep the tribute alive in all our minds.

This latest addition is part of that plan, and it is an overdue mark of respect remembering the important role women played serving their country."

Town Mayor Councillor Paul Darrington added "Swanley has a great recent history in providing lasting tributes for remembrance day.

The town already has a range of memorial benches and plaques in commemoration of our armed forces and now we also have statues of women who served their country.

We do not want to stop there and hope to add to these tributes in 2022."





# Kent Police

## Volunteers required

Sevenoaks District Independent Police Advisory Group are looking for people to volunteer to help represent diverse communities across Sevenoaks District and to assist Kent Police with its work in supporting victims of crime.

Residents have the opportunity to join the Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG), which acts as a critical friend to Kent Police, Sevenoaks District, West Division.

The group is totally independent of the force and helps improve the services police provide to people from different backgrounds.

It includes volunteers who can offer their perspectives around issues such as race, sexual orientation, disability, age and gender.

The IPAG provides a platform and an opportunity to engage, consult and discuss the impact of policing on communities in your local district.

Members are able to share feedback to Kent Police from the communities and local areas they represent, as well as give advice and support during critical incidents.

The IPAG also includes people from minority groups and diverse backgrounds; volunteers have the opportunity to bring along independent thoughts and views which Kent Police will listen and respond to.

If you are interested in joining the Sevenoaks District IPAG, please email  
[DiversityAcademy@kent.police.uk](mailto:DiversityAcademy@kent.police.uk)



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[www.welhamjones.co.uk](http://www.welhamjones.co.uk)





# Remembrance Day Parade



A large crowd turned out in Swanley on the 14th November to take part in the Remembrance Day Parade which took place from the Town Centre to the War Memorial situated in the grounds of St Mary's Church.

The Sea Cadets band led the parade which also consisted of Army Cadets, Air Cadets, Brownies, Scouts, Cubs and Guides along with dignitaries such as The Lord Sackville, The Mayor of Swanley Cllr Paul Darrington, The Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council Cllr Diana Esler and the MP for Sevenoaks Laura Trott.

Cllr Paul Darrington Mayor of Swanley said "It was great to be able to get back to our Swanley tradition of the parade, wreath laying and Church service.

It was an honour to be part of this commemorative event."

Assistant Town Clerk Toni Roast said "It was great to see so many people turn out for the parade and wreath laying, with some staying for the Church service although numbers were reduced this year as a knock on effect of COVID-19."



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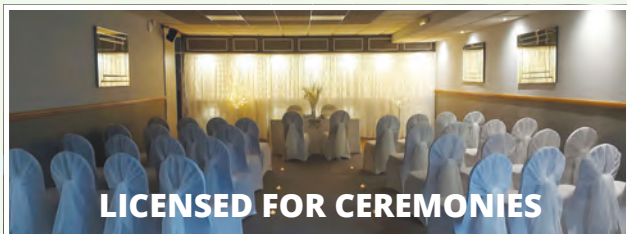
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## All in a day's work

Since last year's floods and as a result of the public meetings held last Autumn, working with Swanley Town Council and partners, I wanted to bring you up to date with what is being done to tackle the issue of surface water flooding in Swanley.

- Noticeable uplift in contractors tending to drains and gullies throughout Autumn/Winter '21
- Many roads susceptible to flooding now included on the Enhanced Maintenance schedule. This means they benefit from twice yearly inspections. Where problems arise between inspections, they are attended to within 7 days rather than the standard 28-day response.
- Full CCTV survey to be undertaken of the drainage system across Swanley
- Surface water flood risk survey to be undertaken by external professional company
- External agencies to improve and better maintain existing assets
- The implementation in certain areas of 'Flood Bins'
- The likely addition of flood doors to some 'at risk' properties
- Investigation work being carried out at various locations with a view to improving drainage
- New technologies being looked at – such as Smart Drains – to automatically monitor systems
- Negotiations underway to provide quick response aid from locally stored flood kits inc. pumps, sandbags etc
- Introduction of local 'Flood Wardens' to areas with a history of flooding. More volunteers needed.

If you see a problem with a drain or gully, please log the fault on the KCC website or App under Roads and Travel 'Report a Problem', or by calling 03000 418181 during normal hours or 03000 419191 out of hours or in an emergency.

Please help us to help you by not depositing waste materials into the drain system – especially building materials such as sand and cement.

Thank you

**Cllr Perry Cole**  
**Kent County Council Conservative Member for**  
**Swanley and Hextable**  
**(Swanley Division)**



# Light Up The Town



On Saturday 4th December, Swanley Town Council were once again able to "Light Up The Town" having had to cancel the event in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The week before the event was more challenging than in previous years with the Christmas Tree supplier advising they could not deliver the Christmas Tree we had ordered!

Another hurdle to overcome was when the Organiser had to self-isolate for the event.

Thankfully staff rallied together and a new tree was ordered and employees stepped up to run the event.

Lots of children visited Santa in his Grotto and also had their photo taken in his sleigh and ginger bread house.

Toni Roast, Assistant Town Clerk said "I am so proud of the Swanley Town Council team who all pulled together to make the day extra special, whilst I was isolating at home."

The countdown and Light Up The Town on was carried out by The Mayor of Swanley, Councillor Paul Darrington. Entertainment on the day included The Big Soul Choir, Super Jam, The Rock Choir and Churches Together.

There were many local businesses selling Christmas products; from hair bows to bespoke items for the home.

If food and drink was your preference then the Cotton Mill helped to keep everyone warm having hot mulled wine for sale, while the Catering Van offered a varied selection of meals.

The Bean Machine had extra special coffee available which included a shot of favourite tipples and we even had Flossie's Flavours selling festive Candy Floss!

This years event was sponsored by Evolve Estates and was supported through volunteering efforts by Jon Porter and his team.



# THE OLYMPIC

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## Swanley Park creates new accessible toilet and changing facility for disabled users

Swanley Town Council is very pleased to announce the recent development and installation of a brand new 'Changing Places' toilet facility for disabled users of Swanley Park.

This is the latest addition to the park, and complements the Water Park and Play Park areas which are also inclusive by design.

This project was part funded through grants and donations.

The grants totalled £12,500 with the total project costing nearly £20,000. Swanley Town Council wish to thank; The National Lottery; The Bruce Wake Trust; and Crowdfunding for their generous donations.

Changing Places are designed so that they are completely accessible and provide sufficient space and equipment for people who are not able to use the toilet independently.

This facility consists of suitable equipment such as; an electric changing table; electric hoist; adjustable sink; new railings; and a privacy screen.

Swanley's Mayor Cllr Paul Darrington opened the facility and commented "Due to the recent pandemic, parks and open spaces have played a key role in society, improving the wellbeing of local communities. It is paramount that all visitors have facilities they are able to use where they feel safe and comfortable.

We are very proud to be one of the 1653 locations providing a Changing Places facility in the UK".

Need2Change, a local movement pushing for better facilities, also attended the opening and added "It is fantastic to be at the opening of this Changing Places toilet.

Having a toilet with the specialist equipment needed, makes such a difference and is a very tangible demonstration that places care and ensures people feel that they are welcomed.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to all involved in the project and we very much look forward to future visits with our friends and families.

Thank you Swanley Park".



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# Record Breaking Fireworks Display



Photos: EWall photography



On the 5th November Swanley Town Council once again held a free Bonfire and Firework display on Swanley Recreation Ground.

With the weather being absolutely perfect for the event, people were able to enjoy the spectacle, fair rides and stalls on offer.

Never has the green space seen so many people, with thousands turning out to enjoy the event.

Assistant Town Clerk Toni Roast who organised the event said "It has been so good to be able to put on an event for the public again.

The attendance at this event shows that people are ready to start getting out and about again after a really difficult 18 months with COVID".

Deputy Mayor Cllr Lesley Dyball who conducted the countdown with some local children said "It is truly fantastic to see so many people, of all ages, back in the Recreation Ground enjoying a wonderful evening of entertainment, capped off with one of the best fireworks displays for miles around".



# Heathcliff, the robotic dementia therapy cat

Known as innovators in dementia care, a local home care company has excitingly introduced a new member to their team, Heathcliff the robotic dementia therapy cat!

50% of Home Instead Shoreham, Petts Wood and Longfield's clients are living with dementia, therefore Heathcliff will be accompanying CAREGivers on their visits as an additional way of providing comfort and happiness to clients.

Robotic therapy animals are academically proven to reduce stress, increase socialisation, stimulate interaction and improve relaxation and motivation for people living with dementia.

Creating the same emotional response as a real-life pet, Heathcliff is a great alternative for those who may not be able to have a pet of their own.

This is just one of the many ways the Home Instead team is improving the lives of people living with dementia.

To find out more about Home Instead Shoreham, Petts Wood and Longfield, please call 01959 546 228 or visit [www.homeinstead.co.uk/shoreham-petts-wood](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/shoreham-petts-wood).

Photo: Heathcliff, Home Instead Shoreham, Petts Wood and Longfield's robotic dementia therapy cat.



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Join an award-winning company doing amazing things to help seniors live well and comfortably at home.

Join our *team*

01959 546228  
[www.homeinstead.co.uk/shoreham](http://www.homeinstead.co.uk/shoreham)

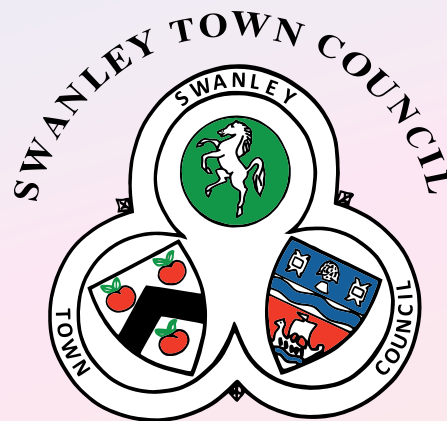
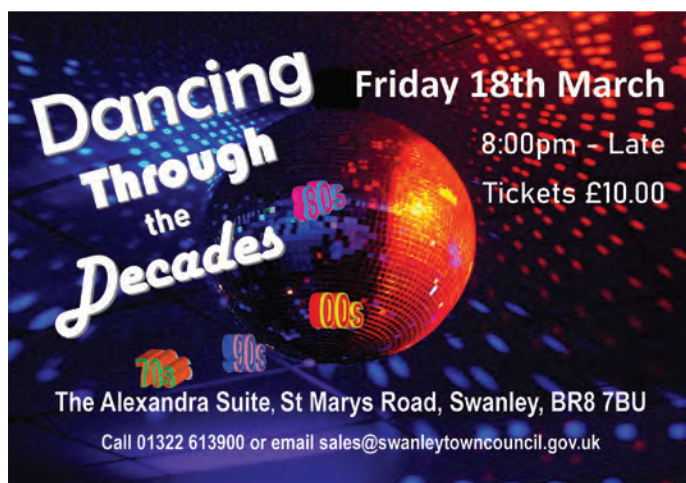
"I *love* that I get plenty of time to sit and chat with Linda. We have loads in *common* and lots to talk about."

Lily Grafts, CAREGiver



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## Swanley Town Council EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

**The Mayor's  
Charity Spring Ball**  
Friday 1st April

**St George's Day**  
Saturday 23rd April

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Beacon Lighting**  
Thursday 2nd June

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee  
Picnic in the Park**  
Sunday 5th June

**Armed Forces Day**  
Saturday 25th June

**Swanley New Barn  
Railway Gala**  
Saturday 23rd & 24th July

**1812**  
Friday 26th August

**Family Fest**  
Saturday 27th August

**Fireworks**  
Friday 4th November

**Light Up The Town**  
Saturday 3rd December

**Dick Whittington Pantomime**  
Tuesday 20th December





# Steve Holbrook is back!

Live Medium On Stage  
The Alexandra Suite  
Friday 25th March 2022  
at 7.30pm

"Steve is the real deal  
brought all our loved ones  
through...brilliant"

Jean ★★★★★

"The energy and  
atmosphere was amazing  
and the messages were  
so well received"

Della ★★★★★

"I was blown away by his  
accuracy"

Canarian Weekly News

★★★★★

"By far the most accurate  
medium I've ever seen!"

Harry ★★★★★

"I was so impressed last night  
in Swanley" Laura ★★★★★

Tickets £15.00 | Box Office: 01322 613900



River Wey Canal Boat Trip.

## Are you Retired? Or Semi-Retired

Looking for things to do, and  
items of Interest?

Why not join your local Active  
Retirement Club.

## SwanARA.

Or at least come along as a  
guest to our monthly meeting  
for a small charge, to see what  
outings we have planned and  
to listen to that month's guest  
speaker.

We meet on the third Tuesday  
of each month at 2 pm at the  
Alexandra Suite St Marys Road,  
except December which is the  
second Tuesday.

Previous outings have included  
a horse drawn Canal Boat, the  
Albert Hall for concerts, UK  
based holidays and theatre trips.

For further details please  
contact:

**Ray Buchan**

01322 663 541 (Membership)

**Ingrid Metcher**

01322 664 053 (Secretary)

Also, **John or Elaine Carpenter**

01322 669 542

INFO@WRIGHTDANCE.CO.UK  
T: 07909 573 823

# Ballet Classes

1ST DANCE LESSONS IN JOYDENS WOOD & SWANLEY

FREE TASTER CLASS

WRIGHT DANCE SCHOOL

# Street Dance

FREE TASTER

SUITABLE AGES 6+  
FUN, FUNKY, FREESTYLE

info@wrightdance.co.uk  
T: 07909573823

FREE TRIAL

MINI  
INTERS  
ADVANCE

ACROBATIC  
ARTS

DEVELOP YOUR  
ACRO SKILLS

JOYDENS WOOD  
BEXLEY  
SWANLEY

E: INFO@WRIGHTDANCE.CO.UK  
T: 07909573823

WRIGHT DANCE SCHOOL

# TAP DANCING

PRE-GRADED & ADULTS

FREE TASTER CLASS

JOYDENS WOOD

CONTACT US



Outing to Sheffield Park.



# Your Local Sports Clubs

## AFC Green Court Football

Green Court Sports Club,  
47 Green Court Road  
BR8 8HF



Telephone: Geoff Searle 07818 020 540

## Swanley Football Club

Swanley Recreation Ground,  
St Mary's Road,  
Swanley  
BR8 7BU

swanleyfc@gmail.com  
<http://www.fcswanley.co.uk/>



## Swanley Bowls Club

The Olympic,  
Beechenlea Lane,  
Swanley  
BR8 8DR

Telephone: Keith 07877 060 840  
Email: [info@Swanleybowlsclub.co.uk](mailto:info@Swanleybowlsclub.co.uk)



## Swanley Netball Club

Recreation Ground (netball courts)  
Swanley Recreation Ground,  
St Mary's Road,  
Swanley  
BR8 7BU

Email: [Swanleync@gmail.com](mailto:Swanleync@gmail.com)



## Swanley Boxing Club

The Olympic,  
Beechenlea Lane,  
Swanley  
BR8 8DR

Telephone: Eddie 07411 106 681  
Email: [e.welsh73@ntlworld.com](mailto:e.welsh73@ntlworld.com)



## Every Step Counts

Walking club for all ages  
Swanley Park,  
New Barn Road,  
BR8 7PW

Telephone: 07952 755 863  
Email: [keith.wood73@outlook.com](mailto:keith.wood73@outlook.com)



## Sevenoaks Suns Basketball Club

Sevenoaks School,  
High Street,  
Sevenoaks  
TN13 1HU

Email: [info@sevenoakssuns.com](mailto:info@sevenoakssuns.com)



## Swanley Athletics Club

Swanley Park,  
New Barn Road,  
BR8 7PW

Web: [www.swanleyanddistrictac.org](http://www.swanleyanddistrictac.org)



## Swanley Rugby Club

Swanley Recreation Ground,  
St Mary's Road,  
Swanley  
BR8 7BU

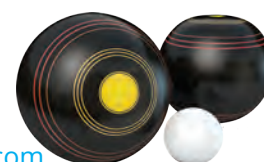
Email: [info@Swanleyrfc.co.uk](mailto:info@Swanleyrfc.co.uk)



## Whiteoak Indoor Bowls Club

Garrolds Close,  
off Hilda May Avenue,  
Swanley, Kent, BR8 7BF

Email: [whiteoakbowlsc@aol.com](mailto:whiteoakbowlsc@aol.com)  
Telephone: 01322 665571







## Monday and Thursday Clubs

**ARE BACK AT LAST!**

### MONDAY CLUB

When we said adieu in March 2020 for a 13 week "lockdown", little did we know it would be almost 18 months before we would be able to meet again. We celebrated with a banner, balloons and lots of cake!

Our Social Club meets every Monday from 10.30am to 12.30pm in The Alexandra Suite (part of the Civic Centre) in St. Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU and we are always ready to welcome new members to the club.

If you enjoy meeting and making new friends, with time for a cuppa and a chat, news of what's going on in the town, a bookstall, two raffles and a few games of Bingo – then our Club is just for you.

We also have monthly outings to the seaside from May to October and a visit to a Christmas Market.

We celebrate our birthday each year with a Summer lunch and always have a good Christmas Party.

We are a friendly bunch – why not come and try us out.

**Christine – 07864 807 670**

### THURSDAY CLUB

We are back and pleased to be up and running again. Our club meets every Thursday in the Clocktower Pavilion, St Mary's Road, Swanley BR8 7BU from 1:30pm – 3:00pm.

No need to book!! if you are over 50 and would like to meet new friends over a cup of tea, biscuits, raffles, game of bingo, why not pop along.

We have monthly outings and it's the perfect opportunity to make new friends.

**Pat – 07714 686 995**



## Residents Parking Permits Due to Expire March 2022

**Did you know, as a Swanley Resident you are entitled to free parking at Swanley Park?**

To register your vehicle for free parking please  
**Email: [csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:csa@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk)**  
a copy of your V5 registration document and your NEW 2022/2023 Council Tax bill.



Any applications received before the new council tax bill is issued will expire at the end of March 2022.



## TOWNCrier<sup>magazine</sup>

**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 8,000 homes in Swanley and surrounding areas!

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

