

Swanley gives Aid to Ukrainian families



On Wednesday 2nd March, Swanley Town Council announced a humanitarian partnership with Swanley Rugby Club and their team sponsor Callisto Construction.

The aim was to become a community hub for donations to Ukrainian families in Poland fleeing from the brutal and devastating Russian invasion of their country.

Donations were accepted at The Alexandra Suite, and from there, Callisto transported the donations into Poland.

We are proud and delighted to announce that an overwhelming response has been received and in-fact multiple trips will now be undertaken due to the amount given by Swanley people. Donations included; clothes; medical supplies; blankets; food; baby supplies; sleeping bags and much more.

We thank everyone who has generously helped this cause by donating these vital supplies, and to the amazing volunteers from Swanley Rugby Club who have spent much time going through and sorting all the donations.

The biggest issue for donations is the logistical challenges and cost of getting these over to Poland, so we are not asking for any further donations at this time, as Callisto Construction has a lot to transport over the coming weeks!

However, if anyone would like to support further, please make a financial donation to the British Red Cross via <https://donate.redcross.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-crisis-appeal>



You can make a financial donation to the **British Red Cross** via your smartphone or tablet by scanning the QR Code opposite.



7 Great British Spring Clean



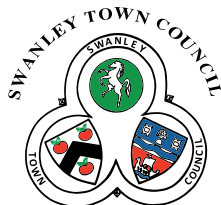
8 Alexandra Suite 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating



10 2022 Season Upgrades for the Park



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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

Since opening on the 12th February, our White Oak sports facility has been extremely popular, with new memberships soaring. There have been comments made concerning the lack of parking at the facility. I have been advised that the new car park will, hopefully, be opened by this August, providing much needed additional capacity.

This delay is, unfortunately, out of the control of Swanley Town Council but I would still like to extend apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Another success story is our new Swanley Community Tennis located in St Mary's Road next to the Swanley Town Council offices, which I opened on the 4th July.

From very low figures, the number of people and in particular children playing is now impressively high. I am particularly impressed by the enthusiasm of the coaches which is reflected in the players. If you have not done so already,

I thoroughly recommend that you visit. All ages and abilities are being catered for.

On the 9th March, I attended awards ceremonies at both the Orchards and Horizon's academies, for art and essay writing.

The standard of work from all ages of children was extremely good.

I was particularly impressed with the attitude and behaviour of all the children I met.

They are a credit to both their teaching staff and parents.

For the past four years, a dedicated number of Swanley residents have been working on a Neighbourhood plan.

This document is nearing completion and will cover all aspects of the town, including housing, health, transport and education.

Once approved we will hopefully have a greater influence on the future development of Swanley.

If you have not done so already, I can thoroughly recommend a visit to Swanley Park. Spring is the very best time to visit and the new boats shaped like large Swans on the lake will provide entertainment for your children.

On a cautionary note, please remember that now is nesting time for birds and their privacy should be respected.

With the cost of both gas and electricity spiralling to levels never experienced before, it is vitally important that we all maximise upon energy efficiency.

Swanley now has the services of Green Doctor, who are a charity that offers free advice on staying warm and saving money on energy bills. They can be contacted on 0800 233 5055 or **GreenDoctorSouth@groundwork.org.uk**

I telephoned them myself recently and was impressed with their knowledge and sound advice.

For those of you that are over 75 years of age or qualify on medical grounds, I urge you to take advantage of the COVID booster jab that is now available.

Finally, as my term as Mayor draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support for the past twelve months.

Paul Darrington
Mayor of Swanley Town Council

Our CEO

It is great to be able to say that spring is finally here after a particularly cold winter. However, everything has been put in perspective given the crisis in Ukraine.

This has been a total shock to all and of course our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine.

At the start of the crisis, we partnered with Swanley Rugby Club and their sponsors to ensure vital humanitarian supplies reached refugees in Poland.

An appeal went out to residents for supplies, and we could not have expected such a positive response.

Thank you all for your crucial support at what is a difficult time for so many.

Town Council employees and Councillors are also offering advice and assistance to Ukrainians in need.

Winter has posed many challenges, but we have adapted accordingly and achieved much, particularly with regards to funding new projects.

Funding is gaining momentum on three of our core projects for the town.

The National Lottery have committed £150,000 to the

Our CEO *Continued*

to the funding of a new bespoke design skatepark, which will replace the metal park which is approaching the end of life.

Swanley Town Council have partnered with Concrete Wave for this project, and the relationship is starting to come to fruition. To date a total of £205,000 has now been secured against the project.

At The Olympic, £75,000 has been secured through Veolia, and this will help build new changing room facilities and toilets, which will help transform the Olympic into a Sports Hub.

In total, £105,000 has been secured towards this project, which will also include creating a new sports pitch.

Swanley Bowls Club, Swanley Rugby Club and Swanley Boxing Club are all set to benefit from these changes.

In the Town Centre, we have applied for funding through the Department for Levelling Up towards purchasing the privately owned Car Park which surrounds the Oaks Surgery.

Should this purchase materialise then we look forward to working towards developing a new Health Hub in the town in partnership with surgeries and NHS CCG.

The winter flowers are still offering a colourful touch across the town and work has begun on new beds and flower arrangements for the summer display.

After a record-breaking year of awards including three golds at the South & South East in Bloom awards, we look to continually improve our displays for the enjoyment of all.

Swanley Park is once again bursting into life with all activities reopening for the weekends and holidays and many remaining open during the week (weather dependent).

This year visitors can enjoy our new fleet of themed

Pedalos. The Barn Yard has now been open for one year and users continue to enjoy the soft play attraction.

New AstroTurf has been installed around the Splash Pool and Water Features, following the success of the recently upgraded safety surface of the Play Park.

Something a little different is the installation of a borehole for the Lake, which will help ensure the area no longer dries up due to our ever-changing climate.

At The Alexandra Suite we continue to invest in upgrading the venue to ensure it continues to offer the best experience for users.

New doors, windows, bar areas, kitchen equipment and toilet facilities will be put in place in the coming months.

Another busy year is scheduled ahead, but all those experiencing the venue can dine with confidence knowing that we once again received a 5-star food rating.

Aside from the Sports Hub project, The Olympic is also being given an upgrade with new doors and carpet earmarked to give the facility a lift.

Swanley Link is open, despite the recent car crash into the building. Staff worked through the night to ensure the facility would open as quickly as possible. For this, I am extremely grateful. After such a major incident, to be open after being shut for only two working days is remarkable.

I hope everyone has a fantastic spring and I look forward to giving my next update in the summer!

Ryan M Hayman

CEO

Patient Voice - Patient Participation Group The Oaks Surgery

Patient Voice continues to meet regularly and to publish their Newsletter in support of the The Oaks Surgery and its patients. NHS guidelines for COVID 19 still advocate caution as the virus continues to infect 1 in 10 people.

People are urged to attend for vaccination if they have not already done so. Booster doses are being offered for those aged 75 and over and older people who live in care homes.

Parents are urged to vaccinate their children who are aged over 12, that have a weakened immune system and could be

susceptible to catching the virus. The local vaccination centre is located at St. Mary's Church Hall.

Patient Voice will be getting involved in an initiative being run by the local Primary Care Network (a local grouping of GP practices in order to focus more directly on patient care).

This initiative will promote well being in the community and aims to reduce health inequalities. More information can be found in our next Newsletter due out in May.

Jackie Griffiths - Chair of Patient Voice

The wheelchair service and community equipment service want to hear your views.
It's not too late to have your say.

Our initial surveys are now closed and we would like to thank the people who have taken the time to feedback their experience of these services.

The wheelchair service survey and community equipment survey each received more than 100 responses, and the reports are available to view on the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) website <https://www.kentandmedwayccg.nhs.uk>

We are still very keen to hear from more people who use the wheelchair service or the community equipment services across Kent and Medway.

If you didn't get a chance to complete the surveys, then there is still the opportunity to tell us about your experiences.

Please contact us at kmccg.engage@nhs.net or telephone: 01634 335260.



Swanley Warriors



Swanley Town Council

can carry out additional works for local residents from minimum £10.00 per hour.

Our trained and experienced Grounds Team normally work Monday to Friday but are always looking to earn a little bit more.

Cut Lawns | Strim Hedges | Dig Gardens
Plant Flora and Fauna, Weed, Spray and Chip

Bookings are subject to availability

Contact Bradley 0758 4030 957

Items for planting must be purchased by the hirer and staff cannot be used for removing items of furniture and similar rubbish.



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SATURDAY 25TH JUNE
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event held at Swanley Recreation Ground

Fly Past **subject to availability*

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Police Cars ★ Vintage Vehicles

Children`s Rides ★ Touch Rugby Display

Food & Drink Stalls & much more to enjoy...

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charity

Danny Gallivan
Trust
Military Charity

Interested in holding a stall please contact

Toni Roast 01322 665 855 – troast@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk

Great British Spring Clean

Once again Swanley Town Council Staff, Councillors and Residents came together to take part in the nationwide Great British Spring Clean created by Keep Britain Tidy.

Over four days they covered different areas of Swanley and all together collected 40+ sacks and 20+ trollies.

Pupils from St Mary's C of E Primary School, members of Christchurch, & Swanley Village Residents Association also got involved in the event!

Lilly Hendry-Lewis who organised the event said "It's been a very successful four days and it was great to see the community coming together."



A big thank you to everyone who got involved!"



Litter and Fly-tipping

First of all I would like to thank all those of you who reported litter issues to the Town Council and also those of you who have organised or helped with litter picks around the town.

It is encouraging that we have so many residents who have an interest in how our town is presented.

The situation is improving but there is still much to do. We must continue to be vigilant and alert.

We are grateful for the support that we have had from Mark Ansdell and the Environmental Enforcement Team at Sevenoaks District Council.

We have managed to get fly-tipping removed and warning signs and cameras installed in key hotspots.

There has also been a prosecution. However, fly-tipping continues to be a problem, with dumping now occurring at new locations.

Much of this fly-tipping is instigated by people outside of our neighbourhood.

Fast food cartons and cans continue to be dumped along our footpaths and highways. Swanley Town Council have installed more bins in the town. West Kent Housing Association

have been working with us to clear problem bin areas and have moved some bins away from residences.

This is not going to resolve overnight. We need to all collaborate to keep our town clean and tidy.

A place we can be proud to call home. Please keep up the good work.

Cllr Jackie Griffiths





Alexandra Suite 5 Star Food Hygiene Rating

Following a recent inspection by the Environmental Health Officer (EHO), the team at The Alexandra Suite are delighted to announce that the venue has maintained its 5* rating.

The rating is the highest to achieve and confirms the attainment in relation to:

- A safe food storage system;
- Hygienic food preparation;
- Cleanliness;
- Staff training; and
- Accurate and up to date records

Venues Manager Kerina Keir commented "Our team have once again demonstrated the hard work and commitment it takes to achieve this rating. I know this is an important reference for venue users so obtaining this rating is fantastic."

The Alexandra Suite hosts many functions and events incorporating catering options, such as three-course dinners; finger buffets; basket meals; and afternoon teas. The 5 Star rating gives the assurance that all food prepared and cooked is the highest possible standard for all our customers.

Swanley Community Tennis

On the 19th March, Swanley Community Tennis were pleased to be visited by David Rawlinson, the President of the Lawn Tennis Association.

David was keen to see the facilities provided in Swanley following Swanley Community Tennis winning the Lawn Tennis Association award for Community & Parks earlier in the month.

David said "Your combined efforts have created a great facility and opportunity for the Swanley community to enjoy tennis. To grow from nothing to 250 active members in less than a year is outstanding.

There is no doubt that your commitment and enthusiasm have contributed enormously to the success and without the positive attitude and support of Swanley Town Council none of this would have been possible".

The Mayor of Swanley Cllr Paul Darrington said, "It is fantastic that this facility is so well used with around 250 people now regularly using the courts. The enthusiasm of the coaching team is clearly being passed onto all of the children".

Also see page 11



SWANLEY VILLAGE ~ JUBILEE PARTY ON THE GREEN

Friday 3rd June, 2pm until 9:30pm

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • FACE PAINTING | • ICE CREAM |
| • TEA & CAKE | • BEER TENT |
| • TUG OF WAR | • HOG ROAST |
| • BEAT THE GOALIE | • SPACE HOPPER RACES |
| • KIDS DISCO | • AND MUCH MUCH MORE... |





Swanley 50+ Club

We invite anyone over the age of 50, from Swanley, to join us at The Clocktower Pavilion, St Mary's Road, Swanley every Monday 2.00pm - 4.00pm, £3.00 for the afternoon.

Activities include speakers, quizzes, bingo, tea/coffee and biscuits, variety of boardgames, cards, dominoes etc.

The club also hold monthly raffles and lunches out – perfect opportunity to make new friends.

For more information please call: Marjorie – 07970 731 412

No need to book, arrive 1:45pm - we would love to see you.



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Trolleywise will do the rest!

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Environment Agency

The Environmental Agency has a bank of resources to help raise awareness of flooding.

The aim is to give guidance on how people can protect themselves and their home and help the community.

Environmental Agency publications are available online from www.gov.uk/flood



PARTY ANTHEMS

Friday 27th May

The Alexandra Suite

8.00pm / £10.00

DJ playing the best party anthems from the 70's to present day!

01322 613900

The Alexandra Suite Presents...

SCHOOL'S OUT

18+ PARTY NIGHT

Join us

FRIDAY 22ND JULY FROM 8.00PM

UNTIL LATE

DJ playing all your favourites from old school to present day hits!

£10 ENTRY - FOR TICKETS CALL 01322 613900

2022 Season Upgrades for the Park



Ahead of the opening of Swanley Park in April, there has been some significant investment and changes. New for 2022 saw the upgrade of our boating fleet.

We have introduced six new Swan Pedalos to the park, which have already proved very popular with the public. We also have three new Rowing Boats to add to our Boating Lake.

In addition to these, and new for the start of the season, is our Changing Places Facility. This was installed in October 2021 and is designed to be completely accessible, to provide sufficient space and equipment for those who are not able to use the toilet independently. This project was part funded by donations and grants including those from The National Lottery, The Bruce Wake Trust and Crowdfunding.



Throughout the course of the closed season, we have resurfaced some of the main paths leading into and around the park. These have been widened and upgraded to block paving, which is a more durable material and will prevent flooding and puddles on the paths in winter months.

Parks & Open Spaces Manager, George Brooker stated, "We are very pleased with how popular the new Swan Pedalos have been, and are very excited to expand our fleet with the new rowing boats. This year is an exciting year for the park as we continue to improve upon our existing activities and facilities."

The park is now fully open (weather dependent) on weekends and school holidays, with The Barnyard Indoor Soft Play open every day.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events



Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea

Thursday 2nd June 2022

at The Alexandra Suite

12:30pm - 4:00pm

£10.00 per person

TICKETS ARE NOW SOLD OUT

PLEASE CALL TO JOIN OUR WAITING LIST

CALL 01322 613 900

Don't miss out on the fun at The Olympic:

Themed Karaoke Night

Friday 3rd June 8:00pm

Themed Quiz Night

Sunday 5th June 7:30pm



Swanley Community Tennis Win County Award



Swanley Community Tennis were nominated for the Community & Parks Award for their work completed in 2021.

This award is given to a venue, group, organisation, programme or individual that has provided tennis opportunities within a community or park setting.

Winners must have achieved something of note, been innovative in approach, and adapted to ongoing challenges.

All this must happen whilst still providing opportunity for people to play tennis, showing excellent engagement with the community in a safe playing environment, making

tennis welcoming, accessible and inclusive, and demonstrating excellent safeguarding standards.

Toni Roast, Assistant Town Clerk, said "We were so excited when we found out that we had been nominated for this award, but were in total shock when we won, especially as Swanley Community Tennis only began in 2021."

Neil Biddle of N B Tennis said "This is a brilliant achievement and I would like to thank Swanley Town Council for letting us fulfil our dream of bringing Tennis back to Swanley."



Beacon Lighting at Swanley Recreation Ground

Thursday 2nd June 2022

21:35 *Piper to play "Diu Regnare"*

21:40 *Singing of "A Life Lived With Grace"*

21:45 *The Beacon will be lit*



Picnic In The Park

Sunday 5th June 2022

11:30 *Children's entertainment*

13:00 *Circus performance*

14:30 *Children's entertainment*

16:00 *Circus performance*

Swanley Park, BR8 7PW

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea
The Alexandra Suite
St Mary's Road,
Swanley BR8 7BU

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

Picnic In The Park
Swanley Park,
New Barn Road,
Swanley BR8 7PW



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Sat & Sun 9am-5pm

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You can visit one of
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given advice and
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team member.



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www.askthe.police.uk

True Vision – hate crime or
incidents and how to report it



- find out what hate crimes or hate incidents are.
- find out about the ways you can report them.
- report using the online form.
- find information about people that can help and support you if you have been a victim.

www.report-it.org.uk/home

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the Kent countryside safe



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behaviour, incident
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Vandalism of public property

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101

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require an emergency response

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 - property damaged
 - suspect drug use or dealing
- Or:
- give information about crime
 - have a general enquiry



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Commissioner Matthew Scott**

- Write to **Office of the Kent PCC,**
Kent Police, Sutton Road, Maidstone, ME15 9BZ
- Call on **01622 677055**
- Email contactyourpcc@kent.police.uk
- Twitter **@PCCKent**
- Visit the website www.kent-pcc.gov.uk



**Kent
Police**



QUIZ NIGHT

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**Every First Sunday &
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FRIDAY 19 AUGUST 2022**

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RED CARPET GALA IN AID OF MOTOR NEURONE
DISEASE ASSOCIATION

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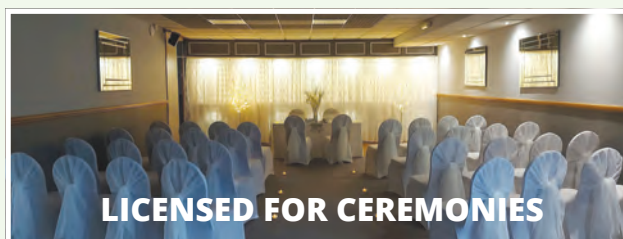
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BR8 8HF



Telephone: Geoff Searle 07818 020 540

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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



Swanley Netball Club

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

Email: Swanleync@gmail.com



Swanley Boxing Club

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Swanley
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Telephone: Eddie 07411 106 681
Email: e.welsh73@ntlworld.com



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New Barn Road,
BR8 7PW

Telephone: 07952 755 863
Email: keith.wood73@outlook.com



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Email: wuzzywells@outlook.com



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Web: www.swanleyanddistrictac.org



Swanley Rugby Club

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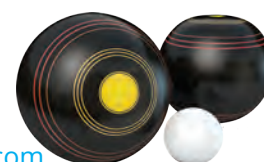
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