

Swanley Town Council

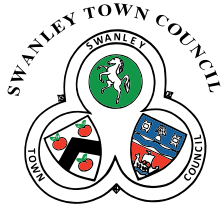
CORONATION PULL OUT SPECIAL

TOWNCrier • magazine

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



We should like to wish
his Majesty King Charles III and Queen Camilla
a Long and Prosperous Reign



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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.

TOWNCrier magazine

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



Councillors and Wards

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A word from the Mayor Cllr Michael Horwood

Dear residents,

I am incredibly honoured and humbled to have been elected by the Town Council as its Mayor for the coming year. I have lived in Swanley for the past twelve years, and like many people, am proud to call this town my home.

I have appointed Home-Start North West Kent as my Mayoral charity, as my predecessor did last year. I have heard from a number of Swanley residents who have accessed Home-Start and they all state it has made a huge difference to their lives and wellbeing.



Home-Start offers free, confidential support, friendship and practical help to parents of children under five in Swanley and the surrounding areas who are going through a difficult time. Many parents feel exhausted and overwhelmed by the stresses of family life, particularly if they have little support from family and friends when they need it most. For some parents it's a particular struggle because they are also having to cope with issues such as post-natal depression, their

own or their child's illness or disability, isolation or multiple birth.

Home-Start is made up of local volunteers who have parenting experience themselves, and they regularly visit families in their own home, offering emotional and practical support through difficult times.

If you feel you need some help or support, or even wish to volunteer, please call Home-Start on 01322 225100 or visit www.homestartnwkent.org.uk

I truly look forward to serving as your Mayor for the coming year, and hope to meet the many Swanley community groups over the coming year. Please don't hesitate to invite me to an event or group meeting, as I'd be delighted to hear more about your respective organisation, and how the Town Council, or other agencies, could support you. Our community groups are the fibres that hold the Swanley community closely together, helping improve mental and physical wellbeing; tackling isolation and loneliness; as well as helping deliver a range of social benefits such as looking after our environment, or helping young people develop and grow their skills. I will ensure I give all our community organisations my full support.

Cllr Michael Horwood

Mayor of Swanley
Town Council

Our CEO

This year, due to the local elections, the spring Town Crier has been delayed and combined with the summer addition. This is timely given that the lengthy winter weather appears to finally be behind us. I warmly welcome eleven new and five re-elected Councillors to Swanley Town Council and look forward to working with them all over the next four years. I also want to say thank you to all those who stood and to everyone who voted. Many Parishes have uncontested elections, but Swanley was fully contested.

Floral summer arrangements are out across the town, with several new additions this year and a growing number of sustainable plants helping us maximise value and environmental benefits. A total of 3771 trees have been planted across three sites; West View Park; Elephant Park; Pinks Hill. A wildflower bund has also been built at Pinks Hill along with work starting to expand the balancing pond. All these works at Pinks Hill have helped with flood prevention; at Elephant Park they have increased the screen between the Park and the busy A20, and the planting at West View Park has helped protect the site from future housing development schemes. All areas will now have improved air quality whilst giving a boost to the local eco-system.



At Swanley Park, a new inflatable area has been built providing a bigger activity for children to enjoy and at the same time cutting queue wait times thanks to the increased capacity. Work is well underway for the new Children's Nursery facility to be operated by Dawn to Dusk (Swanley), a local family business based at Orchards Academy. This new £1.5 million pound facility has not cost the Town Council a penny but will provide a long-term sustainable income stream, meaning we can invest more into the Park. Orchards Academy is due to be rebuilt, with working due to start this autumn after a minor delay, as the original start date had been planned for March 2023. The new facility should be completed within 18 months, costing an estimated £30 million and all paid for through the Governments 'Levelling Up' fund.

The Venues in recent times have been invested in like never before. The latest upgrade are new toilet facilities at the Alexandra Suite, with work taking place in-house. A fleet EV charger has been installed at the Civic/Alexandra Suite Car Park and will supplement the chargers at The Olympic which I mentioned in the last update. Investment into our Venues is important, we previously lost the Woodlands because it reached a point of uneconomic repair. This cannot happen again as our Venues are vital facilities for the Town. We will continue to make enhancements throughout 2023.

Ryan M Hayman

CEO

RETIREMENT APARTMENTS FOR SALE

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at Burlington Lodge,
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Swanley Park *Celebrates* 40 years

Ahead of the full opening of our attractions in April, there have been some significant upgrades. New for the 2023 season saw the refurbishment of our Bouncy Castle Zone.



Ahead of the full opening of our attractions in April, there have been some significant upgrades. New for the 2023 season saw the refurbishment of our Bouncy Castle Zone.

The old decking area has been removed and the ground flattened with astroturf laid in its place. This area will be home to our new bespoke farm themed bouncy castle.

Swanley Park will be celebrating its 40th year anniversary on 16th July 2023. We are hoping the community will come together to help us celebrate.

From 5th June we will be asking local schools to encourage pupils to create a drawing that represents the park and its anniversary.

The Mayor of Swanley will be choosing a winner and awarding prizes on 25th August at Swanley Park's 40th Fireworks (Previously 1812 Night).

For this event we are working closely with Centre Stage Solutions to try and create a light show or a 40 year illumination over the lake.

In the 40 day lead up to the 16th July we will be giving away a wide range of prizes which may include family passes to the park, sweets & treats, games, puzzle books and many more.

Parks & Open Spaces Manager George Brooker, stated "We are excited to be opening our new bouncy castle area with our bespoke farm themed castle. Myself and the team are looking forward to the upcoming season, as well as the 40th year celebrations at the park".

The Park is fully open (Weather dependent) on Weekends and School Holidays, with The Barnyard Indoor Soft Play open every day.

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National Highways and Swanley Town Council Champion Biodiversity with the Planting of Over 3,500 Native Trees Along the M25

National Highways recently revealed details of work being carried out to protect and enhance the environment surrounding the M25 in Kent.

National Highways, together with Swanley Town Council, is currently carrying out improvements at the Pinks Hill balancing pond near Swanley, Kent just beside Junction 3 of the M25.

As part of this project, the team at Connect Plus and Connect Plus Services (National Highways contractors on the M25) have helped to plant over 3,500 trees across three sites close to the pond itself.

All the plants will be native, both trees and the wildflower seed mix, and they all add something to wildlife such as fruits/nuts and all are used as invertebrate food plants.

Francis Cluett, from National Highways lead said, "We are delighted to join the Council to plant near Pinks Hill. These tree planting schemes at Pinks Hill will deliver real benefits for people living nearby. These new trees are part of our plans to ensure the local environment is improved.

"We recognise that the M25 at Swanley runs close to some exceptionally beautiful countryside and we want to make sure it stays that way, so that's why the team from Connect Plus Services will be visiting regularly to check on the condition of the trees."

Those trees planted have been chosen from the following species: Yew, Hazel, Dog Rose, Rowan, Spindle, Crab Apple, Silver Birch, Beech, Hawthorn,

Small-leaved Lime, Sweet Chestnut, Field Maple, Elder, Wild Privet, Wayfaring Tree, Dogwood and Wild Cherry.

Ryan Hayman, Swanley Town Council's CEO concluded: "These three planting schemes will benefit biodiversity in Swanley.

I look forward to seeing how they will help open up these local spaces for the benefit of residents, visitors, and the wider community. The Town Council is committed to being Carbon Neutral by 2030 and projects like these are part of our overall strategic aim".

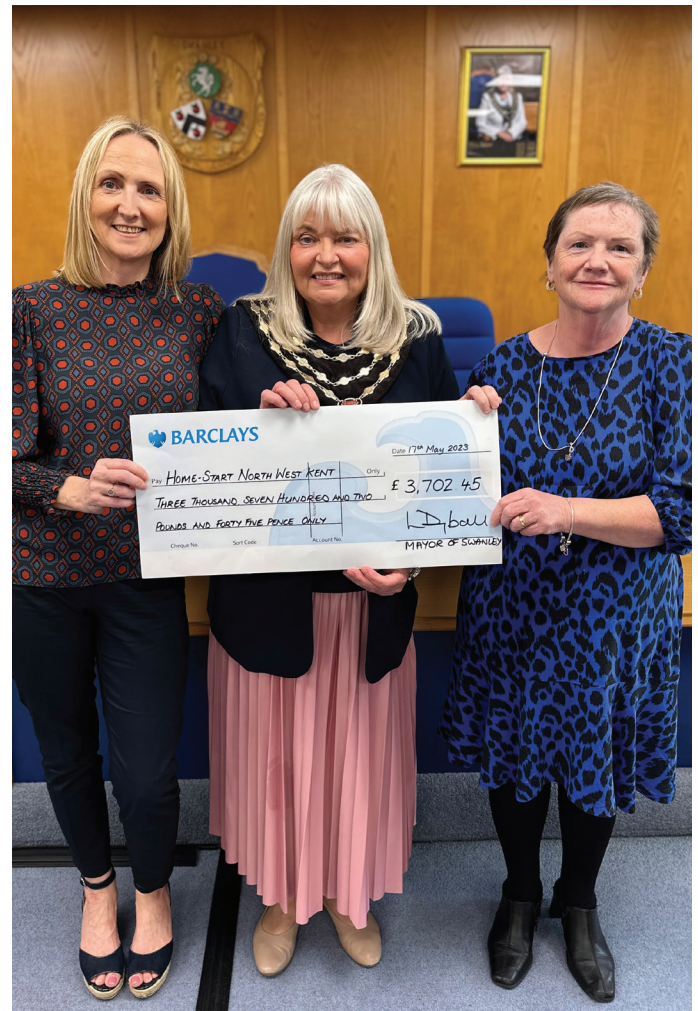


North West Kent Outgoing Mayor

It was an absolute pleasure to present a cheque for £3,702.45 which was the total raised during the year for my Mayor's Charity, Home-Start North West Kent.

Rosie Neale and Kerry Ashdown were delighted to receive the cheque and explained how the funds will go towards training more volunteers to support the growing number of families in the local area who are being referred to Home-Start.

It was confirmed that Home-Start will continue to be the new Mayor's charity for 2023 – 2024



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Swanley Village





The Olympic





Swanley Park





Manse Way



St George's Day



On Saturday 22nd April Swanley Town Council hosted their St George's Day celebration in Swanley Town Centre. The town was festooned with bunting and a full fun packed day of free entertainment was provided.

Displays included The East Kent Morris Dancers, Professor Imperious, who provided the Punch and Judy Shows, Boughton Monchelsea Morris Dancers, Swanley Light Opera Group,

Pendragon Circus, Erith Operatic Society and The Big Sing Choir.

A big thank you to the talented students from the Wright Dance School who once again performed some absolutely brilliant routines.

Local residents had a crafts stall selling home made items, this included home made cakes and specialist coffees were available from The Coffee Bean.

A bouncy play area and some small rides ensured that children were kept busy and of course our Police cadets were in attendance to assist Swanley Town Council and litter pick in and around the town centre and Swanley Recreation Ground.

Toni Roast
Assistant Town Clerk

Great British Spring Clean 2023



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

Over two days they covered four different areas of Swanley and all together collected 60+ sacks and

had 50+ attendees in total. A special thanks to Swanley Village Residents Association who also got involved again this year and covered the Swanley Village area!

Lilly Hendry who organised the event said "It was great to see the community coming together.

I'm so pleased that local scouts and police cadets were able to join us and work towards getting their community badges.

A big thank you to everyone who attended"



THE ALEXANDRA SUITE SWANLEY

BACK TO THE 80'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday 1st December
8.00pm - Tickets £10.00 - 18+



REWIND 80'S VS 90'S PARTY & BASKET MEAL

Friday 8th December
7.30pm - Tickets £22.00 - 18+



CASINO DINNER DANCE

Saturday 9th December
7.00pm - Tickets £45.00 - 18+



ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PARTY & BASKET MEAL

Friday 15th December
7.30pm - Tickets £22.00 - 18+



MOTOWN & SOUL DINNER DANCE

Saturday 16th December
7.00pm - Tickets £42.00 - 18+

FAMILY NEW YEAR'S PARTY

8.00pm - Tickets £15.00 Adults £10.00 Children

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER DANCE

6.30pm - Tickets £56.00 - 18+



01322 613900



Speed Watch Volunteers needed

Are you concerned about the speed of vehicles on the roads in and around Swanley?

If the answer is yes, then are you interested in training to be a Speed Watch Volunteer?

Training will be provided by Kent Police under their speed watch scheme and this consists of a 40 – 50 minute online training followed by one hour's training at the roadside. Insurance cover is provided for all roadside operations.

All sites are risk-assessed prior to any speed watch procedures.

Six volunteers are required in order to set up as a volunteer organisation.



Swanley let's have a chat!

Signs have been popping up across Swanley asking local people to have a friendly chat with regards to everyday objects as part of our 'Hello Lamp Post' project.

The signs have been put up in Swanley Park, St Mary's Recreation Ground and Swanley Train Station inviting residents to say 'hello'.

We're making our local area interactive to speak with the community and the project gives local people the chance share their thoughts and feelings about their town and an opportunity for them to find out local information at the touch of a button.

Residents can also find out more about their local area, volunteering, cost of living help and local events. To start the conversation, simply scan the QR code on the sign or send a text message using the details provided. You'll soon get a friendly reply!

These two-way 'chats' will provide us with important feedback about where you live to help with future community initiatives."

Ryan Hayman, Chief Executive Officer at Swanley Town Council, says: "When Sevenoaks District Council first approached us about this idea we thought that this was a great opportunity to enhance community engagement across the town. We hope that you will find them helpful and your feedback on the scheme is very much appreciated."

If the trial is a success, the Hello Lamp Post project will be rolled out to other towns and villages across the District. Hello Lamp Post is supported by Swanley Town Council, Sevenoaks District Council, Southeastern and is part of the District's 'Better Together Community Hub' project.



Swanley History Group

Our monthly meetings have changed from Tuesdays to the first Wednesday of each month -7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start at The Alexandra Suite, St.Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU.

We are delighted that most of our members and non-members can continue to attend and have welcomed several new joiners.

Our varied programme so far this year has included celebrating our 10 Year Anniversary in January

when we enjoyed a photographic presentation of 'Swanley Then and Now' and archive viewing. In February our speaker told us about The Home Guard - The Home Front in WW2.

It seems the TV programme 'Dad's Army' was not entirely a work of fiction!

We have a wide variety of topics planned for the coming months including Whitechapel in 1888; remembering when decimal currency was introduced; finding out about the fabric printers of Crayford and smuggling in Kent in previous centuries.

Our website www.swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com gives further information.

Our book, **Swanley World War Two - Remembering The Military and Civilian Lives Lost** is now available. Included are detailed biographies of the 28 men on the WW2 Memorial Plaque on Swanley War Memorial, other men with local links, 13 civilians who were killed in local bomb and rocket attacks and family and local photographs and newspaper reports.

For full details of ways to purchase our book (£9.00 plus £3.50 UK postage) email: swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Christina Tyler,
Programme Organiser



Pallets for Festivities:

Your Picking Solutions Recognized for Supporting Bonfire and Platinum Jubilee Events

I should like to say thank you to Your Picking Solutions for supplying the pallets for our bonfire each year. In 2022 they also provided the pallets for the Beacon to Commemorate the late Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee.

Toni Roast
Assistant Town Clerk

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The Olympic

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TUESDAY: 10AM – 11PM

WEDNESDAY: 10AM – 11PM

THURSDAY: 10AM – 11PM

FRIDAY: 10AM – 11PM (5PM – 11PM HALF PRICE)

SATURDAY: 5PM – 11PM (HALF PRICE)

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7.30pm






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 - Laura

"The energy and atmosphere
 was amazing and the
 messages were so well
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"By far the most accurate medium
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BACK TO THE 80S

THE

8.00PM

18+

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL

SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER
THE ALEXANDRA SUITE

NEW FOR 2023 - DJ UNTIL LATE
PRIZE FOR THE BEST HALLOWEEN FANCY DRESS!

FOR TICKETS CALL 01322 613900 - £10.00

SWANLEY LINK



**Kent
County
Council**
kent.gov.uk



The Swanley Link is open
Monday – Friday: **9:00am - 5.30pm**,
Saturday: **9:00am - 1:00pm**

The following organisations currently have a presence within the building, please ask at the Meet and Greet Desk for information and available days for each organisation.



- Swanley Town Council; parking permits for Swanley Park, sale of all refuse bags and refuse collection information for Swanley residents. Allotment tenancies, court, sport, and pitch bookings. Bus timetable information.
- Library and Registration Services, including Rhyme Time, Knit and Natter, Reading Groups, Craft events, Children's knitting group.
- KCC - Support with Blue Badge application.
- KCC Community Warden Last Monday of the month - 10:00am - 11:00am.
- KCC, Kent Pathways Service Help Desk Swanley, for people with Disabilities.
- Porchlight - Kent's largest charity for homeless and vulnerable people.
- SpecSavers Hearcare - appointments booked through SpecSavers Swanley.
- Post Office.
- Photo Me Booth.
- Piccalilly's Café.
- Ellenor – Bereavement Café – third Saturday each month.
- Dementia Friends Sessions in conjunction with the Alzheimer's Society - please book your session, through the Alzheimer's society or ask at the Meet and Greet desk.
- Sevenoaks District Council - One You.
- News Shopper - pick up a free copy within the Swanley Link.

Pop in for up to date information on current organisations.



Getting here:- Swanley Link is in Swanley town centre and can be reached easily by car, train or by foot.
The address is: London Road, Swanley,
Kent, BR8 7AE.

Parking:- There is free, time-limited parking in the neighbouring supermarkets, and free parking in St Mary's Road after 10:00am.
There are two disabled parking spaces behind the gateway.



Swanley Link
London Road, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7AE.



Swanley Link: 03000 42 12 81 | Post Office general enquiries: 0345 611 2970
West Kent Housing Association: 01732 74 94 00

Swanley Park's 40th Fireworks

(Formerly 1812 Night)

Friday 25th August 2023

Jayne Snow - 18:20

New Wave Choir - 19:10

Eynsford Concert Band - 20:00

Fireworks - 21:00

Swanley Park, New Barn Road, BR8 7PW

Free event & entry*

Park facilities open from 11am



Bucket donations will Support:



****Parking charges apply***



Family FUNFEST

Saturday 26th August 2023

A jam-packed day of family fun with kids entertainment, magic, balloon modelling, dancing, party games, singing and so much more! Entertainment schedule coming soon.

Sponsored by: **Specsavers**

Swanley Park, New Barn Road, Swanley | BR8 7PW



AROUND THE WORLD FOOD FESTIVAL 2023

CELEBRATING AROUND THE WORLD FLAVOURS FOR THE FIRST TIME AT SWANLEY PARK

FOOD STALLS / FUNFAIR / FOOD TASTING

27TH AUGUST 2023 | OPEN AT 12 PM
SWANLEY PARK, NEW BARN ROAD, SWANLEY, KENT, BR8 7PW

MORE INFO AT WWW.SWANLEYPARK.CO.UK

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.



Mental Health User Voice Project

Medway
Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK
TO HELP SHAPE SERVICES
FOR THE FUTURE!



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Sam - 07523906780
sam@megancic.org.uk

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Chris - 07523906784
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We would like to hear your experiences of accessing support for your mental health, whether it be positive or negative.

All feedback is submitted anonymously to EK360 who collate the views and experiences from across Kent & Medway and report to those who fund services and service providers to build a better picture, identify gaps in support and influence positive change for the future.



You Can Have A Voice!



Swanley Skate Jam 15th April 2023

Following the opening of Swanley Skate Park on the 9th December 2022, Swanley Town Council worked with Maverick to put on a Skate Jam event to mark the official opening of the Skate Park. The event was attended by Skate Boarders, Scooter riders and BMX bikes rides of all ages and abilities.

The new Swanley Skate Park contains a wide range of elements including quarter pipes, hips, taco, rollover, ledge and manual pad, a stair set, spine, rail, flat banks and a mini ramp - there's something for everyone, with room for progression whether you skate, scoot or BMX.

Toni Roast, Assistant Town Clerk said, "It was great to see everyone enjoying the new facility. The moves performed were absolutely incredible and a number of people who attended had travelled a long distance to the venue which shows how popular skating, scooting and BMX biking has become."

The Skate Park is a £250,000 investment which was funded through £220,000 worth of grants and £30,000 from Swanley Town Council funds. A special thanks goes to our grant funders; National Lottery; Veolia; Kent County Council; Fidelity International. In addition a big thank you is expressed to Concrete Wave for their assistance in obtaining grants.

FREE Skating classes at the Skate Park jointly funded by Sevenoaks District Council and Swanley Town Council

Swanley Skate Park, Recreation Ground

As Activators we provide access for young people to skateboarding, who may lack confidence, skills or resources to get into the activity.

Our structured and safe sessions provide a safe space to participate in their own sessions.

Our mixed sessions are designed to enable kids to progress and continue skateboarding after the sessions.

Monday 17th July - 4.00pm - 5.00pm & 5.15pm - 6.15pm (Mixed)
Monday 7th August - 10.30pm-12.00pm & 1.00pm-2.30pm (Mixed)
Monday 14th August - 10.30pm-12.00pm & 1.00pm-2.30pm (Mixed)
Monday 4th September - 4.00pm-5.00pm & 5.15pm-6.15pm (Girls)
Monday 11th September - 4.00pm-5.00pm & 5.15pm-6.15pm (Mixed)
 * dates subject to change

Book your free session following the QR code



SWANLEY JOBS HUB

Looking for **work** or
just need a **change?**

We can offer support with the following

- Creating a bespoke CV
- Internet jobsearching
- Interview skills
- Supporting you with job applications
- Careers advice
- Helping you access training courses
- Digital training
- Apprenticeships
- Redundancy
- Self employment advice



The Alexandra Suite*, St Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU

Every Wednesday from 9.30am -12pm

By appointment only.

Contact Pauline on 07715 993293

or Russ on 07921 050452

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