

# Swanley Village News



**March 2026**

**The Newsletter for the residents  
and friends of Swanley Village**

## Useful Contact Details

Residents' Association	e: SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com
Residents' Association Secretary	Ghaz Stott Everett e: ghazstotteverett@icloud.com
Swanley Village Trust	e: swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk
Swanley Village web	w: www.swanleyvillage.uk
Cllr Michael Horwood	e: mhorwood@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Marc Logen	e: Marc.Logen@kent.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Prestedge	t: 07733 152862 e: CPrestedge@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Swanley Village Life Group	David Pearson t: 01322 614237
Swanley Village 100 Club	Keith Rowland t: 01322 662415 e: mistover1@aol.com Steve Hunt t: 01322 668584
Kent Police	w: www.kent.police.uk PC 15621 Steven Shipley
Hextable & Swanley Village WI	ccgriffin46@yahoo.co.uk
Fly Tipping	Sevenoaks District Council t: 01732 227000
Anti-Social behaviour	e: community.safety@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Advertising in Swanley Village Newsletter	e: SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com

We have a community page on **Facebook**. To see and to tell others what is going on in the village, plus photos and news, search for '**Swanley Village News**' community page. We are also **@swanley\_village** on **X**

# *Dates for Your Diary*

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March Daffodil Delight 12noon - 4pm  
The Old Vicarage, School Lane

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> -Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March Litter Pick

Easter Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Egg Hunt  
11am Village Green

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Village Quiz Five Wents 7.15pm

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May – Swanley Village Trust & Residents’  
Association Annual Meetings 8pm St Paul’s Church.

## **Swanley Park Resident Permit:**

*Swanley residents can register their vehicles for free parking by emailing proof of residency and V5 documents to the council*

**You need to re-register each year**  
**by 31<sup>st</sup> March**

Glebe Gate: Volunteers are always welcome to join the group to lock and unlock the Glebe Gate mornings & evenings in the school holidays and occasionally in the evenings during term time.

*If you feel able to join this band of volunteers for a short rota period, perhaps combine it with walking your dog, please contact: Barbara Ramsey tel. 07711 068606*

# Swanley Village Trust

The Quiz Night at Five Wents Hall on Saturday 25 April 2026 at 7.15pm is one of the Trust's regular fundraising events. This is a fun evening which includes a fish and chip supper, plenty of chat, a raffle and fierce competition over who has brought the best beverages or table snacks! Just to punctuate the evening there are some questions asked too!

Tickets this year are £15 each, to include fish and chips (or other) supper. Maximum per table is 8 people, so if you have more you can split into 2 tables and compete with each other. To book email: [swanley\\_village\\_trust@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk)

A 'non fundraising' event is the Easter Egg Hunt on the Village Green on Easter Sunday, 5th of April at 11am. Taking a short break from cajoling bees to make her delicious village honey, Donna Hoy organises this free annual event for families with younger children and the occasional greedy adult.

Monday 11 May 8pm at St Paul's Church will be the annual meeting when you will have an opportunity to hear more about the work of the Trust and ask questions of the trustees attending.

Trust funds pay for the maintenance of the Village Green. The Trust was established to manage the Green, which was opened in 1999, primarily for the leisure and recreation of villagers. It holds the land and the Cottage allotments in trust for the village and in doing so, protects it from development.

We are setting up a new WhatsApp news and info sharing group called Swanley Village Connect— see the back page for details.

# Swanley Village Residents' Association

Can you spare 4 evenings a year to help us maintain and improve the village? We need some new voices from all parts of the village to tell us what is happening, what people's concerns are; and give us ideas about what can be improved. The Residents' Association meets in February; in May for its AGM; in September; and in November. Two hours each meeting. Our Swanley Town, Sevenoaks District and Kent County councillors listen to what we say and tell us their news.

Talk to any one of Ghaz Stott-Everett, David Sayers, Rachel Wallis, Trudy Killkullen, Mark Johnson, Barbara Ramsay, Tom Dunster or myself, Bob Wallis, about what is involved.

At our February meeting we were delighted to hear from Kent Cllr Marc Logen that Kent Drainage had started work to clear a channel to the balancing pond on Highlands Hill, reducing the flooding (and hopefully reducing the debris) that accumulates on the corner. We need more news on flooding at Button Street and the culvert at Coldharbour; also the runoff by the stables at Beechenlea Lane. We talked about footpaths, road closures and power cuts. We were updated on the planning process after the consultation at the end of last year and also heard about the implementation of new recycling and bin collection arrangements. Not everyone seems to get the Town Crier magazine delivered – let us know if you don't!

We discussed arrangements for the litter pick in March (21, 22 & 23 March).

These are practical matters that affect our lives and we would really value hearing from you if you can spare these few evenings each year!

*Bob Wallis*

*Chair*

SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com



## **SWANLEY VILLAGE HONEY**

*Collected by my Bees at  
Elizabethan Cottage, Swanley Village Rd  
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454g Jar £7  
Donnahoy@icloud.com*



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# **Daffodil Delight – Swanley Village**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**12-4pm**

**The Old Vicarage, School Lane**

**Swanley Village BR8 7PJ**



*Join us in the stunning grounds of the Old Vicarage as we continue celebrating our family's journey in this beautiful village. Following last year's 40-year milestone, we're delighted to gather with friends and neighbours to enjoy a breath-taking carpet of golden daffodils, peaceful surroundings, and the simple pleasure of community togetherness. A perfect day for all ages to soak in nature and help raise funds for our local hospice*

*ellenor.\**



**Leader Swanley Town Council and  
Sevenoaks District Councillor:  
Michael Horwood**

Below are the waste and recycling changes and timetable. I hope this will be helpful to residents. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing **[cldr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk)** or telephoning **07815 483891**.

**Waste and Recycling Changes**

A significant overhaul of the way our refuse and recycling is collected happens this year because:

- 1) Government now requires Councils to standardise their waste collections across the country. The Government is paying the Council some of the cost of this transition as a result.
- 2) There are now targets for Councils to improve recycling rates, with potential penalties if they are not met in the future.
- 3) The Health and Safety Executive expect the Council to move to more automation in waste collection, i.e. black and recyclable waste from wheelie bins that can be lifted up by bin lorries.
- 4) Finally, it will also help save our council and taxpayer's money overall.

From Autumn this year we will collect glass. It also opens the door for other item collections such as textiles or battery collections in the future.

## **The timetable for changes:**

**April/May 26** - A new free weekly food waste collection service.

**Autumn 26** - A new free glass recycling service and move to alternate week collections, i.e. one week collecting recycling, the next collecting black waste.

## **New wheelie bins and food caddies**

Residents will get two free food caddies in April 26. These will consist of a smaller indoor container, and a larger outdoor container. Two free new wheelie bins (one for recycling, one for remaining black waste) will start to be delivered in the summer.

## **What to do with Green Recycling bags**

By the time we move to wheelie bins, the green recycling sacks introduced last year will have already saved the Council over £500,000, meaning they have paid for themselves, and saved the council money. They also have the environmental benefit of saving the production of over four million clear recycling sacks.

We are exploring options for the alternative use of the reusable recycling sacks once residents have their wheeled bins and we move to alternate weekly waste collections.

## **What if my house can't have wheelie bins, or I live in flats?**

There may be some properties that are unsuitable for the proposed collection, particularly with no space for wheelie bins. Please contact Sevenoaks District Council if you feel this to be the case on 01732 227000 or e-mail [information@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:information@sevenoaks.gov.uk). The Council will assess each property, and may propose an alternative to wheelie bins.

## **Assisted collections**

If any resident believes they will need help moving their wheelie bin from their front door to the roadside (and back again), they can apply for an 'assisted collection'. Assisted collections are free. Please contact the council using the system above to register.

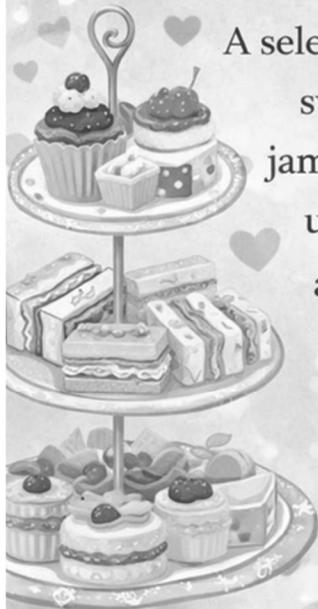
# Lovely Mother's Day Afternoon Tea

Come and celebrate Mother's Day with us

A selection of finger sandwiches,  
sweet treats, scone with  
jam and cream. Also with  
unlimited tea and coffee  
all for **£22** per person.

**Thursday 12th March 2-4**  
**and Saturday 14th March 2-4**

Bring your mum or treat  
someone special!





SWANLEY VILLAGE LITTER PICK

**FRIDAY 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH to SUNDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH**  
**CLEAN A HEDGEROW, A VERGE, A ROAD OR A**  
**FOOTPATH**

**KEEP OUR VILLAGE LOOKING LOVELY**  
**BIN BAGS, PICKERS AND HI-VIS JACKETS FROM**  
**THE PORCH AT 5 HOGS ORCHARD**

### **Nitrous Oxide canisters**

**These large canisters plague the village at the moment. Please don't put them in with rubbish that will go in the skip, but leave them separately beside it. Don't tamper with the canisters. Swanley Town Council will collect.**

**Report to: 01732 22700**



## **Easter Services at St Paul's, Swanley Village and St Peter's, Hextable**

*29<sup>th</sup> March Palm Sunday 8.30am*

*3<sup>rd</sup> April Good Friday 10.30am St Peters Hextable*

*2-4pm Easter Trail for Children*

*5<sup>th</sup> April 8.30am Easter Communion*



### **Swanley Village 'Life' Group**

*The group meets fortnightly in 'term time' on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm. We normally meet at the 'Old Vicarage' but also in other homes in the village. 'Life' groups are based in various homes in the wider parish. Their purpose is not only to provide an important spiritual focus but also help with the more practical issues of everyday life. Anyone is welcome to join us whether or not you are part of St Paul's, St Peter's or any church. If you are interested, please contact the leaders, David and Pauline Pearson, Pine Cottage, Beechenlea Lane - 07836 376803.*

# EASTER EGG HUNT

*Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April*

11 AM - 12 NOON

*at the Village Green*



EGG HUNT & PRIZES

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

DON'T FORGET YOUR BASKET!

**ALL WELCOME!**





## St Paul's School

At St. Paul's, we are enjoying an exciting and enriching start to 2026, filled with opportunities for our children to explore the world beyond the classroom. Our pupils have been lucky enough to take part in a wide range of educational visits recently, each one helping to bring learning to life in a memorable way.

Children across the school have ventured out on several wonderful trips - including a fantastic day at Port Lympne Zoo, where pupils encountered animals from around the world and deepened their understanding of conservation. Another highlight has been our visit to Chatham Synagogue, giving pupils an invaluable chance to develop their knowledge of different faiths and cultures through real-life experience. Many classes have also enjoyed the natural beauty and hands-on learning opportunities offered at Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve, where they explored habitats, wildlife, and the importance of environmental stewardship.

And there is still so much more to come. Over the coming weeks, classes will be heading out on further adventures, including a trip to Castle Farm, where children will explore life on the farm and the journey from field to table. Our Year 2 children are also looking forward to their overnight residential, always a milestone moment full of excitement, independence, and memories made. Meanwhile, our talented KS2 choir is preparing for an extraordinary experience - joining thousands of other young voices for a spectacular concert at the O2 Arena. This promises to be a real celebration of music, teamwork, and confidence.

Alongside all of these rich experiences, we have also been reflecting together as a school community on our shared vision: “Life in all its fullness” (John 10:10).

This year, we have been thinking deeply about what this means for every member of St. Paul’s - children, families, staff, and the wider community. Our recent focus has been on the theme of fullness through kindness, taking time to notice and celebrate kind acts in one another. We’ve also explored what fullness looks like in terms of positive mental health, helping children recognise their strengths, emotions, and the importance of looking after their own wellbeing.

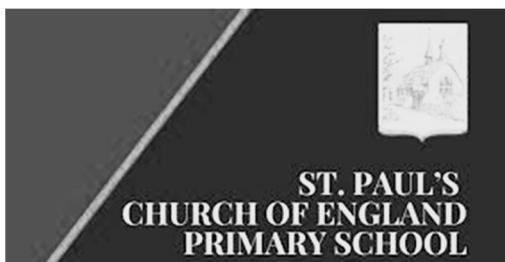
In the coming weeks, we will be turning our attention to the theme of community, considering how we can strengthen our connections both within the school and with those around us. We look forward to sharing more about this as our reflections continue.

Speaking of community, we would like to warmly remind you that every Tuesday morning at 9:00am, St. Paul’s hosts a Family and Community Worship session. This is a wonderful opportunity for families and local residents to gather, reflect, celebrate, and feel part of the life of the school. We would be delighted to welcome you.

James Johnson

**Headteacher**

**St. Paul's Church of England Primary School**



## **BE AWARE**

**There have been a number of suspicious callers to properties in the area, please be vigilant.**

**If you have any doorbell or camera footage of suspicious callers or activity please contact**

**[www.kent.police.uk](http://www.kent.police.uk)**

**PC 15621 Steven Shipley**

## **Woodlands Building Services**

*5A Wood Street Swanley Village BR8 7PA*

*We cover all aspects of building work from the top of your roof to the bottom of your garden.*

*For free quotes and advice contact  
Glen Gould tel: 07947 556070*



Come and join Hextable & Swanley Village WI

We are a friendly and welcoming Women's Institute group of mixed ages and interests, and we are looking for new members to join us. Whether you're new to the area, looking to make new friends, or simply fancy trying something different, you'll be warmly welcomed.

Our meetings include a wide range of interesting speakers, activities, and demonstrations — plus plenty of time to chat over a cup of tea or coffee. We also arrange outings, social events, and community projects, so there's always something to get involved with if you'd like.

**When:** 4th Thursday of every month

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Where:** Five Wents Memorial Hall, Swanley Lane, BR8 7LD

You're very welcome to come along to a meeting as a visitor — there's no pressure to join straight away. Just pop in, meet us, and see what you think. If you would like more information, please call Christine Griffin – 07941 261920

We'd love to see you there!

# ? QUIZ NIGHT!

## & FISH & CHIP SUPPER!

BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS, CUTLERY AND CONDIMENTS

**SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL • 7.30PM**

Tickets £15 email [swanley\\_village\\_trust@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk)

## *The Sanctuary Quiet Garden in Swanley Village, Kent!*



*The garden offers a peaceful retreat in nature, featuring separate areas for quiet, solitude, and prayer, perfect for personal reflection and renewal. Whether you're seeking time alone or want to join with others for a reflective quiet day reach out to Sanctuary.*

*Email: [sanctuaryakwaaba@gmail.com](mailto:sanctuaryakwaaba@gmail.com) or for more information see:*

*<https://quietgarden.org/gardens/sanctuary-quiet-garden/>*



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Discover Inclusion



# The Lamb Inn Home Cooked Food Served Daily

Food Serving times: Monday –  
Saturday 12 Noon to 3.30pm

Sunday 12.30 to 3.30.

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# Hextable Lunch Club

Older residents are invited to a monthly lunch club to enjoy a delicious two-course hot meal, drinks and a chat with others.

**12 noon to 2pm on the third Monday of the month**

Sessions cost £5 per person and must be booked in advance.  
Call 01732 227000 or email [communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk](mailto:communities@sevenoaks.gov.uk)

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/lunchclub](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/lunchclub)



NEXT DOOR  
HEXTABLE



ST PETER'S  
& ST PAUL'S



Sevenoaks  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**WELCOME PACK** – If you are new to the village and would like an introduction to all the activities and information regarding all your surroundings, please email *Swanley\_Village\_Trust@yahoo.co.uk*

It is **FREE** for all Swanley Village residents to advertise, sell items or contribute to the Swanley Village Newsletter. Costs to 'outsiders' are £5 per issue.

### **Annual Donation Swanley Village Residents Association**

Each year we ask each household to donate £5 to Swanley Village Residents Association. This pays for the cost of printing the newsletter which is kindly done by St Paul's School. This year we also paid for additional 20mph signs and litter picking equipment. We also use it to fund the flowers in the planters throughout the village.

Help us to keep our village looking good by contributing, please do this by either:

Paying online - bank transfer the details are:

**Swanley Village Residents' Association**

Sort code **30-98-97**

Account number: **82997563**

Please use **your name as a reference** for the payment and email [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com) to let us know you have paid.

Or by cheque made payable to Swanley Village Residents' Association and deliver to:

Rachel Wallis, Treasurer, SVRA, 5 Hogs Orchard, Swanley Village

## **Swanley Village Connect**

Swanley Village Trust is setting up a new WhatsApp chat group to connect villagers and friends of the village. It's all new so it will be what people make of it! The idea is to share news and information about things that are happening or maybe things that you would like to happen in the village.

Just scan the QR code below to join:



Or text Brenda 07752 303100 or Maria 07732 819210