

Swanley Village News

Issue No.139

September 2026

The Newsletter for the Residents
and Friends of Swanley Village



Useful Contact Details

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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

'Swanley Village News' is a community page on Facebook and @swanley_village on X. Scan the QR code to the right to join the village WhatsApp group.

Swanley Village Connect
WhatsApp group



Lighting the Christmas Tree Saturday 5th **December at 5.00pm**



This year there will be a tree positioned at Wood Street and one at the top of School Lane. As in previous years everyone is welcome to come along to the switching on of the lights and to bring along a bauble to decorate the tree. We hope that people will be there in fine voice to sing a few carols around the tree at the top of School Lane as a traditional opening to the festive season.

Festive Fare at The Old Vicarage Sunday 13th **December noon to 3pm**

As in previous years, Barbara and Vivian Ramsay have extended an invitation to everyone to join them for mulled wine, drinks, canapes and mince pies at The Old Vicarage.

All welcome!



Swanley Village Fireworks

Saturday 7th November from 6pm

**Bonfire, BBQ, Bar & Fireworks on the
Village Green**



**Helpers needed on the Village Green from 10am on
Saturday morning 7th September**

Swanley Village Trust

One of the unusual things about Swanley Village is that, through Swanley Village Trust, it owns both its village green and its Cottage allotments. The church allotments are owned by a charity (Edgell Trust). This means that these important open spaces are not subject to political change but are preserved for the use of villagers and visitors. It also means that everyone who lives in the village has a responsibility to help maintain them because they don't belong to the council.

Thank you to everyone who has recently signed up for or renewed their 100 Club membership. This and other fundraising activity such as the barbecue at St Paul's School summer fete and annual quizzes help raise the Trust's funds.

Work has continued through the summer as the local scout troop sanded and oiled the picnic benches for their community impact badges; and the community payback team has been clearing undergrowth and ivy. Tree work will also continue on the green and at the allotments. There is a vacant allotment coming up – if you are interested, please email swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk.

Planning for the firework and bonfire night at the village green on Saturday 7 November is well underway. As usual we will have freshly cooked hot dogs and mulled wine and a roaring bonfire, with Lizzie providing the bar. Entry is free but we need you and your guests to empty those jars and drop donations into our collection buckets. Equally valuable is whatever time you can spare to help set up on Saturday morning, help with selling on the evening, or walk round with a bin bag on Sunday morning.

Swanley Village Residents' Association

The consultation on the Local Plan (catchily named Regulation 19) closed on 17 Sept. The next stage is that it has to be formally submitted and then independently examined. It is important that Sevenoaks District Council succeeds in getting a plan agreed after the rejection of its 2019 Plan which failed to achieve the housing demands of the previous government. If SDC had met those targets in 2019 the step up to current demands would have been much less significant.

Nobody seems to know what is to happen with The Red Lion, certainly not me. It is hugely disappointing to have watched its decline over the past decade. The leaseholder has made some very bad decisions and the owners appear indifferent. Very frustrating!

We are grateful to Matt from CJ Love for providing the village with additional floral colour. Swanley Town Council's contractor was also very responsive when snails ate most of the blooms in the pyramid opposite the school back in June. Plants were swiftly replaced and regular watering has sustained these and the other displays through this summer's drought.

At our recent Residents' Association meeting we also discussed what precautions should be taken in future hot dry weather to protect from wildfires; flytipping in Button Street and Ship Lane; littering on the Glebe and elsewhere; antisocial behaviour in School Lane and Ship Lane; and online abuse and aggression.

Ironically Local Government Reorganisation is being reorganised (and therefore won't happen for the foreseeable future). Finally – if you have a hedge that has grown out across the road, a roadsign or a footpath – please cut it back!

Bob Wallis, Chair

Please remember your £5 annual subscription per household to the Residents' Association! See the back page for details of how to pay.

Volunteers wanted



Can you help your community and spare a few hours to reduce speeding vehicles in your area?

Swanley Village Speedwatch Scheme are looking for volunteers to support them in reducing speed and improving the safety on their roads with the support of the police.

Speedwatch is a community-based scheme where volunteers record speed of passing vehicles in the area where they live. Around **94%** of vehicles observed once by Speedwatch volunteers are not seen speeding again in the next 12 months within Kent.

CONTACT US

If you would like to join a group and help, please go to **www.communityspeedwatch.org** to register.

For more information, visit the Kent Police website
www.kent.police.uk/speedwatch

Call **01622 653781**
or email **Speedwatch@kent.police.uk**



**Kent
Police**



Unwind
Create
Be Inspired
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No
experience
needed!
♡

WATERCOLOUR SIP & PAINT WITH
Suzanne Abraham

17th october
7pm - 9pm

£28 per person
all materials
provided

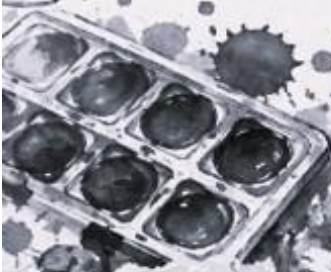


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company
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art
♡

For more details and booking
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evening at
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Art
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Friends
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St Paul's School

As I complete my first few weeks as Head of School at St. Paul's, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks for the wonderful welcome I have received. From parents and carers to grandparents, church representatives, local residents and, of course, our children and staff, I have been overwhelmed by the warmth, kindness and support shown to me since joining this very special community.

It has been a real joy to see how well all of our children have settled into the new academic year. They have returned with a sense of purpose and enthusiasm, demonstrating curiosity, resilience and a genuine love of learning. Every day, I see children embracing new opportunities with confidence and hope for what they can achieve.

One of the aspects of St. Paul's that has impressed me most is the exceptional character of our children. Their kindness, respect and excellent manners shine through in everything they do. Whether supporting a friend, welcoming a visitor or tackling a new challenge in the classroom, they consistently demonstrate the values that make our school such a special place. Their positive approach to learning, coupled with their determination to do their very best, has been both phenomenal and refreshing.

Our strong partnership with St. Paul's church continues to flourish. Together, we are exploring plans for exciting environmental projects within the Glebe. These projects will encourage pupils to care for God's creation, understand their responsibilities to the wider world and develop a deeper appreciation of the community in which they live. We also welcome all families to our family worship every Tuesday morning at 09:00 at St Paul's.

Looking ahead, our staff team is already busy planning a range of educational visits and local learning opportunities. We are fortunate to be surrounded by such a rich local community and look forward to making the most of the opportunities available to us.

I am also delighted to be establishing a new School Council. This group will provide children with a genuine voice in school life and opportunities to develop leadership skills rooted in service, responsibility and compassion. One of their first tasks will be to nominate two charities to support throughout the year, one local and one national. Through fundraising and community events, our pupils will have regular opportunities to demonstrate generosity, empathy and a commitment to making a difference to others.

As I reflect on these first weeks, I am continually reminded of how blessed I feel to be part of such a caring and welcoming community. The words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans seem particularly fitting:

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves." (Romans 12:10)

This verse beautifully reflects the spirit I have encountered since arriving at St. Paul's. In the kindness of our children, the encouragement of our families, the commitment of our staff, and the support of our churches and wider community, I see a living example of Christian love in action. Together, we are creating a school where every child is known, valued and encouraged to flourish. My hope is that we continue to build upon these strong foundations, living out our values each day and ensuring that all members of our community can truly experience life in all its fullness.

Mr Stephen Emmett

Head of School

St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

Help keep horse riders safe in our Village



**Could you display one of these
signs on your property? Signs: red
text on yellow, are made of Correx
and are 40 x 60cm Please email
SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com**



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!



Leader Swanley Town Council and Sevenoaks District Councillor: Michael Horwood

Local Plan

Sevenoaks District Council is at the final stages of completing its Local Plan. The Local Plan addresses how and where it will meet the Government's mandatory housing targets, and which sites, that have been forward by landowners, best comply with the new national planning law.

For Swanley and Swanley Village, the major proposals are the proposed part development in between Swanley Village and Swanley, as this land is now 'Grey Belt' according to national Government policy, meaning development is now completely acceptable.

It's important to point out that without a Local Plan, much of the proposed housing developments could go forward anyway as individual planning applications, as the sites are now compliant with national planning law. Even if the District Council refused them, Government Planning Inspectors have the final say on appeal – and they are not known to be favourable or considerate of local concerns (remember when they overruled local objections and approved the proposed 11 and multiple 7 storey skyscrapers in Swanley Town Centre, which thankfully was never built out).

What the Local Plan does, once approved, is try to mitigate what developers can do, and control the extent of the development. With

Swanley Village, in the Local Plan there are several mitigation points:

- The Local Plan limits the amount of development that can occur between the village and the town. In years gone by 1,500 houses were considered in the dreaded 'Garden Village', and in the previous version of the Local Plan 410 houses were proposed. That has now been reduced to around 220 houses in total between the town and village.
- A very large part of the existing field, ie a very large wedge, is proposed to be retained as a buffer between the village and the town. The development is limited to staying in a broad line from the edge of the Harrington's Nursery development towards Swanley Town.

The biggest concern with the proposed developments remains the traffic impact on the town and village. Kent County Council has essentially confirmed, as the statutory highways expert, that the traffic impact of all the new development is acceptable. However, I have continued to raise with the Swanley Kent County Councillor the concerns and assumptions made by KCC Highways.

If you would like any further information about the areas proposed for development, please do not hesitate to contact me.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance in the meantime – cllr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk or 07815 483891.

Cllr Michael Horwood - Sevenoaks District Councillor for Swanley Christchurch and Swanley Village

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To arrange a visit call **01322 472 307**
or visit **barchester.com/ElderwoodLM**



Elderwood House Care Home, 57 Top Dartford Road, Hextable, BR8 7SG

St Paul's Church



Our local Church is in need of £40,000 of urgent repairs.

Please help us raise the money by purchasing a pack of notelets or Christmas cards available from 1st October at Next Door Hextable or from the Church Office.

Donations for repairs can be made directly to:

Swanley St Paul Parochial Church Council.

Sort Code 20-25-42 Account 80859710

Please mark your donation St Paul's repairs.





CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

WITH PAULA! ♥

We all know Paula...
so you already know this is
going to be a good one! 😊

Join us for a fabulously festive evening
of wreath making, Christmas cheer,
plenty of laughs and of course,
the fun and giggles that always
come with Paula! ♥

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very own gorgeous
Christmas wreath
to take home and
proudly hang
on your door! ♥

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INCLUDED! ♥



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7PM - 9PM



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PER PERSON

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MAKE A NIGHT OF IT
AND KICK OFF CHRISTMAS
WITH US! ♥

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for a bit of festive fun
with Paula? ♥

♥
Good
People
Great
Wreaths
Brighter
Christmases
♥

Swanley History Society



Upcoming programme September to December 2026

Wednesday 7 October

The Weekend Millionaires - Thames Lightermen

Peter Daniel tells us about the lives of these river workers

Wednesday 2 December

Let's Go To The Pictures

Alan Williams gives us a history of the cinema in Britain

*Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30 pm start at THE ALEXANDRA
SUITE, St. Mary's Road, Swanley, BR8 7BU*

Further information email swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk

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

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 or for more information see: <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/sanctuary-quiet-garden/>

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10am - 12pm

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Kerry is an experienced neurodivergent teacher and advocate who works with schools and families to ensure SEND children receive the support they need to communicate and access their education.

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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.

— THE LAMB INN —
SWANLEY VILLAGE

Sunday Specials

HOME-MADE SCOTCH EGGS

Served with side salad
and pickle or mustard.

£5:95



FULLY LOADED CHILLI CHEESE DOGS

2 Cumberland sausages in a
brioche bun with chilli con carne
cheese served with homemade
coleslaw and French fries.

£12:95

HOME-MADE WARM DOUGHNUTS

Served with whipped cream
or vanilla ice cream with a sauce
of your choice – caramel,
strawberry or chocolate.

£4:95



— THE LAMB INN —
SWANLEY VILLAGE

☎ (01322) 615161

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*

To advertise in the Newsletter email:
swanleyvillageRA@outlook.com

Annual Donation Swanley Village Residents Association

Each year we ask each household **to donate £5 to Swanley Village Residents Association**. We have used the funds to provide additional planting in the village and to repaint the village signs at either end of the village. If you wish to contribute, 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 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