

Swanley Village News

Issue No.136

September 2025

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

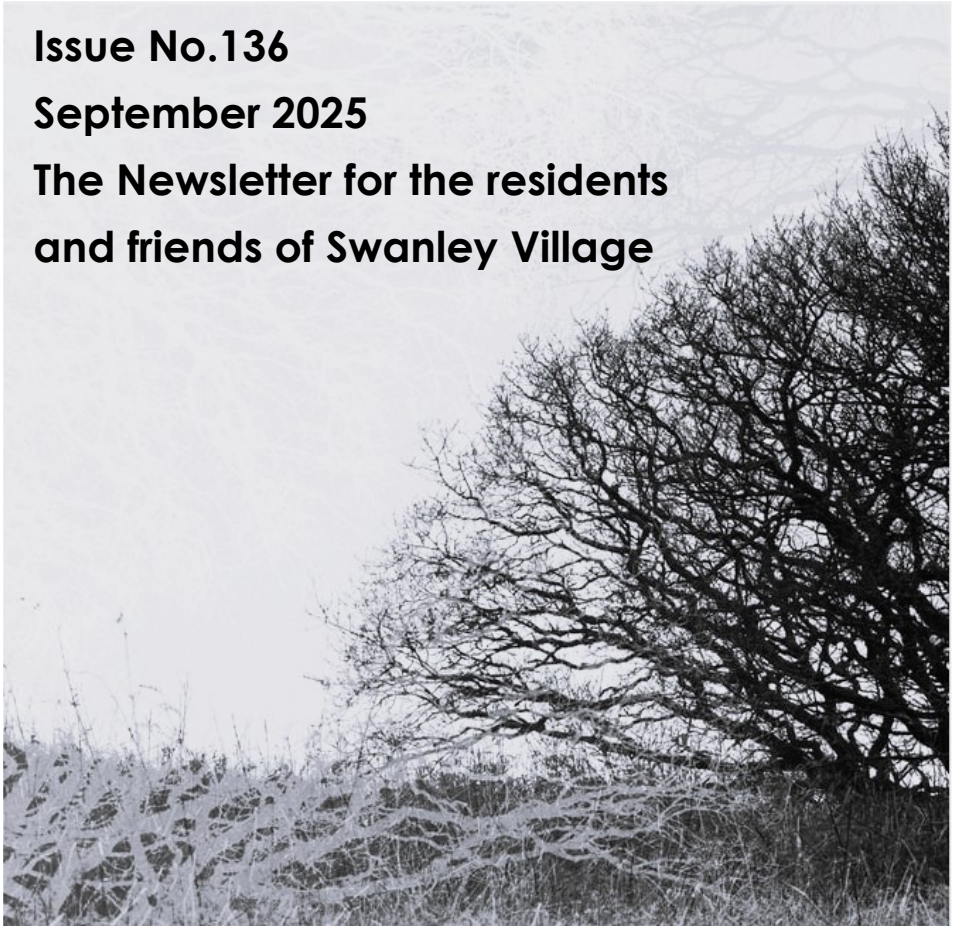


Image reproduced by kind permission of Caroline Fraser

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	Christine Griffin e: 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
Residents' Association	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**



Swanley Village Fireworks



**Saturday 1st
November from
6pm**

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



***If you are able to help set up, please come to
the Village Green at 10 am on
Saturday 1st (or help tidy up on
Sunday 2nd). We need volunteers to
help make this event happen!***



Cottage Allotments (opposite The Red Lion)

These allotments are owned and managed by Swanley Village Trust. All 14 are currently in use but occasionally one becomes available. Rent is £52 and reviewed annually. If you would like to put your name on a waiting list for when this happens, please contact Trustee, Geoff Lees: geofflees@yahoo.co.uk

Swanley Village Trust



Bee Orchid

This summer proved an exciting one for wild orchids on the Village Green! We had Pyramidal Orchids popping up in many different areas where we haven't seen them before. Then we had the rare sight of some Bee Orchids – much harder to spot – also emerging. This was why you will have seen some extra traffic cones on the green making sure these delicate specimens were preserved from the lawnmower!

We are grateful for the continuing work of the Community Payback team which has kept the Village Green and the churchyard in good condition.

At the end of June the Trust supported St Paul's School on its Inflatable Fun Day by cooking burgers and hot dogs. It was one of the hottest days of the year and we are enormously grateful to Matt and Phil for spending the afternoon next to burning coals!

This year's fireworks event on the Village Green will be on Saturday 1 November. We need helpers, particularly those brave enough to stand behind the barbecue (it's not such a bad place to be on a November evening). Also help with setting up on Saturday morning and taking down on Sunday. Please get in touch with us either by email to: swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk or by speaking to any of the Trustees: Vivian Ramsey, Brenda Rowland, Geoff Lees, Maria Gradidge, Bob Wallis or Rachel Watson.



Pyramidal Orchid

You can update your details and/or if you wish to add your name to the email list for regular updates please contact:
swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk

Swanley Village Residents' Association

I hope you have enjoyed some of the sunshine and warmth that we have experienced so far this year. Frustratingly the UV levels seemed to dip as soon as the school holidays arrived!

This article is written ahead of the next Residents' Association meeting where we will discuss issues such as the current closure of The Red Lion, planning applications, crime, footpaths around the village, noisy motorbikes (and other anti-social behaviour). If there are issues that matter to you in the village, which you think we should discuss, please email me at: SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com.

Thank you for the efforts of many villagers who persistently reported the School Lane Black Van to Sevenoaks District Council and to our elected representatives who used their influence. It is evidence that the weight of public opinion through the formal channels (rather than social media) can work! This will also be true of future Planning and Development challenges!

We have received a resources pack from Kent Highways which includes some 20mph signs that could be put up around the village. These are mainly stickers that would fit on a wheelie bin (400mm x 300mm); plus a 5ft x 3ft banner. If your property has somewhere facing the traffic where we could site the banner – please let me know. We will look at the logistics of holding it up! Equally if you use a wheelie bin and it sits facing the road – you are welcome to a sticker. It may be that more of us will have wheelie bins at some point next year!

In the meantime the Residents' Association has purchased smaller signs that fit on lampposts and these are dotted around the village. We will continue to purchase these and put them up where they can be seen. Please help by keeping hedges and vegetation cut back around any traffic signs.

Bob Wallis, Chair

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



SWANLEY VILLAGE HONEY

Collected by my Bees at

Elizabethan Cottage, Swanley Village Rd

Beekeeping since 2009

454g Jar £7

Donnahoy@icloud.com



THE ARK CATTERY –

1 Highview, Highlands Hill, Swanley Village

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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

I hope that you and your families had a very enjoyable summer holiday. This is an important update from Sevenoaks District Council:

National Planning Changes and Sevenoaks Local Plan

Most residents won't be aware, but our Government made a number of changes to the main planning policy document (the National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF]) in December 2024 in its bid to meet its manifesto commitment to build millions of new homes over the next few years.

As part of the planning changes, it has significantly increased the District Council's housing target to over 1,149 homes per year over the next 15 years (over 17,000 new homes in the District). To put it in perspective, we are currently building just 250 homes per year (3,750 over 15 years).

Swanley, Swanley Village and Hextable currently have around 9,000 homes combined, showing the significant housing target the District Council faces. Failure to meet the 17,000 homes figure over the next 15 years could result in the District Council and all local voices not being heard at all, as applications could be determined by the national planning inspector. It also means development could occur in any place at any time, with little ability to refuse it.

Under the Government's new definition only land which meets a set of strict criteria can be protected as 'Green Belt'. If land, even open countryside, fields or wooded areas, are not meeting the criteria, the land may be reassessed as 'Grey Belt', which means the land can be developed.

The Government also 'clarified' in February 2025 that land in and around villages is not protected from 'urban sprawl', i.e. that villages can naturally grow larger from housing development, even if they are tightly surrounded or covered in Green Belt.

Both of those do not bode well for protecting our local green fields and scenery around the District, as the Government has removed the major obstacle to securing planning permission as per the above.

Sevenoaks District Council is also putting together a new 'Local Plan', which seeks to find new housing sites that will help meet the Government's mandatory housing targets. All initial sites, where landowners have put forward land to the District Council, will go out for consultation in Autumn this year. Whilst we all need new housing for our children and grandchildren, and Swanley has continued to contribute to housing development over the years, my view as always is that we must try to preserve our countryside and green spaces around the town from mass housing development.

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



Next Door Hextable Café

Opening Hours 9 -3.30 Monday to Saturday

Regular activities Mondays 10am Rhyme Time

Fridays 10.30am to 12noon Knit & Natter

No need to book just come along



Special event Thursday 30th October Meet the Artist and Taste the Coffee

From 6pm – 7.30 pm

There will be an opportunity to meet the new artist who will be exhibiting in the café from 28th October until the new year - Caroline Fraser.

At the same time you can find out more about the responsibly sourced coffee served in the café and how it helps to increase the earnings of the small-scale coffee growers by at least 100% at no extra cost. *Come along and try the coffee, learn about the process and the people it helps. We also sell the coffee beans.*



C O F F E E
A Coffee with a Story



Caroline Fraser - fine art photography and book art - a poetry of place

Caroline's photography is a response to the beauty and infinite variation of objects found in nature, along with a concern for the natural environment. Her quiet representations of mood and place are created with an emphasis on the intimate details within nature, using abstraction and layering.

Caroline has a studio at Rye Creative Centre, along with around 25 artists of varying disciplines. She enjoys making handmade, limited-edition books combining her photographs and words. Recent projects include a book 'Shore', created with images made from discarded fishing materials and human waste found on the beach at Camber Sands.

Most of Caroline's work is created while out hiking in nature. She has travelled widely through her work and to visit family, and enjoys the different forests, rivers and mountains that she finds around the world. Her blog 'an ordinary life' describes her adventures in daily life along with her artistic endeavours.

Website www.carolinefraser.org



*This year, we are hosting a **Silver Sunday Fair on Monday 3rd November** 10am to 12pm at **Next Door Hextable**. Like a freshers' fair for older people, the fair will host local groups and organisations, as well as provide information and advice about the support, hobbies and activities available. The theme of the event is to celebrate older people and show that Sevenoaks is a District to age well. Light refreshments will be served and there is no need to book, just turn up.*

County Councillor's Report

Marc Logen



Hello Residents of Swanley Village,
It has been almost four months since the Kent County Council elections, and I am still finding my feet amid the whirlwind of responsibilities. A little about me - I am not a full-time politician; rather, I am a concerned resident who became increasingly frustrated by the ongoing issues in our area, prompting me to stand for election. I maintain a full-time career in cybersecurity and have a family at home, so I am balancing these commitments with my new role.

I am learning a great deal about how our village associations, parish, town, and district councils collaborate with Kent County Council. By building relationships and understanding the priorities for Swanley Village and neighbouring areas, I am identifying where I can contribute most effectively.

We recently achieved a small but welcome success through combined efforts: the black Mitsubishi van parked on School Lane was finally relocated. I trust the owner has found a more suitable spot this time.

I am also working with the Residents' Association and the KCC Drainage Team to find a longer-term solution for the recurring drain blockage on Button Street and Swanley Village Road, as well as the balancing pond at the bottom of Highlands Hill. I hope to have some more updates on this in due course.

Your first point of contact for any issues should be the Village Association or Swanley Town Council, but if you require additional support, please do email me at: marc.logen@kent.gov.uk. You can also follow me on X or Facebook for regular updates on the matters I am addressing.

Looking ahead, I am keen to hear your views on local priorities - whether potholes, green spaces, or community safety - to help shape our efforts.

All the best,

Marc Logen County Councillor for Sevenoaks North & Darent Valley

Swanley History Society



Upcoming programme September to December 2025

Wednesday 08 October 2025

The History of Aviation in Kent

Presented by aviation historian Guy Bartlett

Wednesday 05 November 2025

How To Write Your Life Story

Presented by Jo Livingston

Wednesday 03 December 2025

Bellringing Folklore and Traditions

Presented by Mark Lewis

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

No need to book - everyone is welcome. If you are not a member you can join on the day or attend as a visitor if you prefer.

Members £2 Visitors £3. Annual membership £5 which includes a monthly newsletter.

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 Quiet Garden Movement

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/>

Would you like to:

have any old faded or damaged photos repaired and restored?

Whether they are torn, dark or faded – all can be remedied.

View all your family photos (slides/prints/digital) all on your TV, all in folders and titled, optimised and supplied on a flash drive.

Would you like to: have an album made up with photos dated and titled --- as a gift for family or expertly framed with bevelled matte.

Your family will appreciate a record with names and dates in years to come

Who you gonna call ? Dennis Molyneux tel: 01322 669523

or call at 2 Beechenlea Lane Swanley Village Mobile 07 5050 37333

www.molyneux-photography.co.uk

I recently wrote a memoir of my experiences while growing up in Charlton 1940s and my brother and sister done the same. This was very worthwhile, and they remembered things that I had forgotten. My sister has sadly since passed away at 93. I would recommend to everyone to do the same as it was very worthwhile and rewarding.

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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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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.

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.

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. If you wish to contribute, please do this by either:

Paying on line - 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