

# *Swanley Village News*

*Issue No.133*

*September 2024*

*The Newsletter for the residents & 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 Website	w: www.swanleyvillage.uk
Cllr Michael Horwood	e: mhorwood@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Cllr Roger Gough	t: 01959 525109 e: roger.gough@kent.gov.uk
Cllr Chris Prestedge	t: 07733 152862 e: CPrestedge@swanleytowncouncil.gov.uk
Rev Johnny Douglas	t: 07799 072845 e: vicarjohnny@gmail.com
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 Janet.Burnett@btinternet.com
Hextable & Swanley Village WI	
Kent Police	w: www.kent.police.uk PC 15621 Shipley (Steven) is the PC for Swanley and Swanley Village
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

### FACEBOOK

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 Twitter

## *Dates For Your Diary*

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October** – St Paul's School Harvest Festival St Paul's Church

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October** Village litter pick and tidy up

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 6pm** Village BBQ, Bonfire & Fireworks on the Village Green

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 7pm** Village Christmas Party Five Wents Hall

**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\*](mailto:Swanley_Village_Trust@yahoo.co.uk)

**Glebe Gate:** Volunteers (perhaps dog walkers?) are always welcome to join the group to lock and unlock the Glebe Gate, a.m. & p.m. and in School holidays.

***If you wish to join this band of volunteers for a short Rota period, please contact Barbara Ramsey ☎666668***

### **Contact Details Swanley Village Trust**

If you have stopped receiving updates/messages by email

**HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?**

You can update your details and/or if you wish to add your name to the email list for regular updates please contact:

**Bob Wallis (swanley\_village\_trust@yahoo.co.uk)**

# **Swanley Village Trust**

Two highlights for the coming months:

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November from 18:00** – Swanley Village Firework Display on the village green

The village fireworks has become a wonderfully popular event for villagers and for visitors. We were not able to hold it last year because we did not have the volunteers available. We need people to give a few hours of their time to help set up on Saturday morning and to help put things away on Sunday. We also need people with good barbecue skills, bonfire helpers and people to sell sweets and drinks! Let us know what you can help with or when you are available and we'll find you something to do!  
swanley\_village\_trust@yahoo.co.uk

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 19:30** Christmas Party at Five Wents Hall with Miki Travis

Planning is up and running for a grown-up fun night at Five Wents Hall. There will be comedy, games and dancing as you gear up for Christmas. Tickets are £15 each and we suggest you bring a group of friends or family. It has been a few years since comedian Miki Travis hosted an event for us, but he's delighted to be back! It's a fundraising night to help support events like the fireworks and to contribute to the maintenance of the village green.

Email: swanley\_village\_trust@yahoo.co.uk to reserve your ticket for the party!

## **Help available to maintain a grave at St Paul's churchyard**

Each Sunday the Community Payback team carries out maintenance work at the churchyard. If you would like some help you look after the grave of a family member, come along and speak to the Team Leader at 9.30am on Sunday morning in the church car park.

# Swanley Village Fireworks

## Saturday 2nd November

from 6.00 pm

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



*If you are able to help set up please come to the Village Green at 10am on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> (or help tidy up on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>) We need volunteers to make this event happen!*



# Swanley Village Residents' Association

It has taken much effort and many years to achieve but we finally have a 20mph speed limit through a significant stretch of the village. As Chair of the Residents' Association I am very grateful to Kent Highways for having implemented this and to Swanley Town Council for having funded the signage that we have. For the safety of walkers and riders we need more – in particular on Highlands Hill which remains treacherous. Our next aim will be to extend the 20mph limit to cover the whole village.



If your property has a frontage onto the road and somewhere that you could put a 20mph sticker (window or wheelie bin) please email: [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com) and the Residents' Association will order some.

There will always be people too selfish to think that a speed limit applies to them, but as you drive through the village please make sure you have a queue behind you doing 20mph!

Some concerns have been raised about housing development under the new government. SVRA opposed the Garden Village; and has not expressed a view about the Pedham proposal, both of which came forward under the previous administration. We will continue to monitor applications that may affect Swanley Village and keep villagers informed.

Swanley Village Residents' Association committee members are all volunteers and the organisation has a few costs. Printing of this newsletter is one of those costs; another is contributing to the planting and floral displays around the village; and there's supply of equipment for the litter picking. We ask each household for £5 per annum to cover these costs. There's a form at the back of this newsletter to show you how to donate. Please do so now whilst it's in your mind! Thank you!

***Bob Wallis***

**Chair, Swanley Village Residents' Association**

## The Glebe and Village Green

Swanley Village is unusual in that neither of its recreation spaces belong to or are maintained by the local council. One consequence of this is that neither The Glebe nor the Village Green appear in directories of local recreation spaces.

Here is a short explanation, in particular for those new to the village:

The Glebe is the field between St Paul's School and St Paul's Church and churchyard. It includes a wooded copse and a marked playing field with a less than perpendicular set of goalposts. As the name suggests, The Glebe is church land, belonging to the Rochester Diocese and it

is leased to the school.

The school is responsible for maintenance of the grounds and the trees, which can be a considerable expense.

During school hours this space is reserved for school activities: cars should **not** drive through and people should avoid allowing their dogs off the lead. Outside of

school hours, at weekends and during school holidays villagers, family, friends and visitors are all welcome to use this space to play games or to exercise. Dog owners must take extra care to clean up after their pets because this space is used by schoolchildren throughout the week.

The church hosts weddings, christenings and funerals as well as regular services and people visit their loved ones at rest in the churchyard. Whatever your reason for visiting The Glebe please respect other visitors. The gate is locked to vehicles at dusk or at 8pm, whichever is earlier.

The Village Green is the field to the south of St Paul's Church ie towards the Red Lion and Swanley Village Road. It was first opened in September 1999 and is owned and managed by Swanley Village Trust on behalf of the people of the village. It has an open space as well as wooded areas with public footpaths running outside its boundary on two sides. There is a gated entrance from The Glebe and from the eastern footpath.



There are benches and a picnic area and people are encouraged to enjoy the flora and fauna in this beautiful open space, to play games and to relax. Occasional events are held here such as a Fireworks Night display, Easter Egg hunt and one-off gatherings for Jubilee and Coronation days.

Swanley Village Trust is responsible for the maintenance of the Village Green and the trust raises money through the year with its village 100 Club and fundraising events. New volunteers are always welcome to help with running events and raising money.

## **Bernard Stowers 1936 – 2024**

There has been very little that has happened in Swanley Village over the past 60 years without Bernard's involvement. The junction of School Lane and Highlands Hill was Bernard's domain. He knew it when it was a grassy bank and he kept the grass cut and planted many daffodils. When the Council dug that up and planted trees, he kept them pruned and planted the tubs, watering every day through the summer months. Bernard insisted that the design for the traffic island around the village sign had space for soil so it could be planted. He also guarded



the key for the noticeboard; and would put up and take down the Christmas tree each year, joining the carol singing with gusto.

Always he could be found with a litter-picker walking up and down amongst the treacherous traffic on Highlands Hill. Bernard was a founder member of the Gardening Society and central to the plans for the Village Green when it was opened in September 1999. He supervised the building of the bonfire and put a torch to it every Fireworks Night on the green; and he would be first up on the morning after to clear up. A regular at the village quiz, Bernard enjoyed the social events in the village, none more so than his glorious procession

as King to the Coronation event in May 2023.

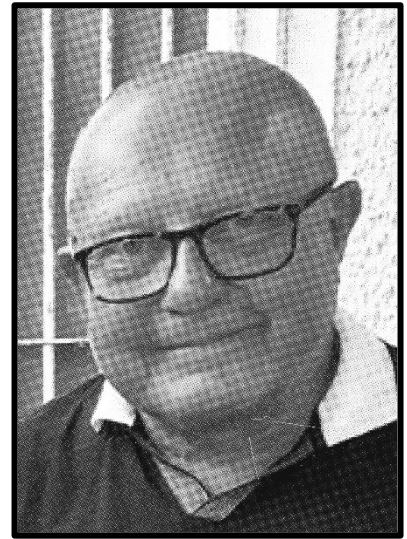
Bernard will be greatly missed by all who knew him and by many who didn't have that privilege.



## Graham Snowling 1957-2024

It is with a heavy heart that we sadly announce the passing of a beloved member of the Swanley Village community, Graham Snowling.

Graham, along with his wife Jackie, moved to Swanley Village in 2016 and instantly fell in love with their new home and community. Graham's lust for life was evident in becoming a familiar face in the village; always one to be seen at various community events and quite often seen in "The Lamb." He was recognised by many and certainly liked by all who met him.



Soon after moving to the village Graham joined the Swanley Village Residents' Association where he was keen to help in any way possible to improve and benefit the community and would always be the first to volunteer his time and help where possible. As a member of the SVRA committee he played a significant role in the upkeep of the Wood St/Ship Lane planters, litter picks, introduction of the D-Day "Tommy" memorial as well as many other things.

Graham was an extremely valued member of our community and will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. From all at the SVRA and his friends in the Village, we would like to extend our deepest condolences to Graham's family at this sad time and want them to know that Graham's strong character and good natured spirit is inspiring, and we will do our utmost to carry his positive lust for life forward, in his memory, when trying to best serve the community he loved so much!



### **SWANLEY VILLAGE HONEY**

**Collected by my Bees at  
Elizabethan Cottage, Swanley Village Rd  
Beekeeping since 2009  
454g Jar £7 227g Jar £4  
[Donnahoy@icloud.com](mailto:Donnahoy@icloud.com)**

# Looking after your Village

11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October

Your help is needed

There will be a skip again this year to assist us with clearing the rubbish from around the village. It will be located near the school. Litter pickers and black bags will be available on the doorstep of 5 Hogs Orchard for villagers to use.

It would make such a difference clearing the dead wood from hedgerows and ensuring all the signs in the village are clear of foliage, not to mention clearing the litter. Please spare whatever time you can over this weekend to tidy up the village.



**Download the app to report an Asian Hornet sighting**

**Asian Hornet**  
Watch

# Leader Swanley Town Council and Sevenoaks District Cllr: Michael Horwood



## Housing Targets

One of the most significant concerns following the change of Government to the District Council is the impact on planning law and forcing Sevenoaks District Council to increase its Housing Target by over 6,000 homes – requiring just over 16,000 homes in our District to be built by 2040, compared to the previous target of just over 10,000 homes by 2040.

Furthermore, there has been a significant reduction in the protection that Green Belt has as a result of the Government's plans – not only weakening the status of Green Belt overall, but most alarmingly, stating that Green Belt must be used to meet the significantly increased Housing Targets above.

Sevenoaks District Council is currently producing its Local Plan, which will need to include the amended Housing Targets mentioned above. This is done through landowners submitting sites for house building, and the sites being assessed on a range of factors.

The local Councillors have been working hard to prevent the inclusion of one piece of land off Lullingstone Avenue/Archer Way, which although is undeveloped and previously protected Green Belt, has been put forward by the landowner. Our view remains that this site is a very unwanted precedent to bridging the 'green' divide between the town and Swanley Village with development, and therefore is very important in protecting the status of Swanley Village in the years to come. We will continue fighting hard against it, and indeed against any mass-development in our previous Green Belt.

## Recycling 'Bags for Life'

Later this year, Sevenoaks District Council will be replacing the single-use white recycling sacks with 'bag for life' large green bags.

The new bags have the capacity of over two white sacks and are designed to eliminate the one-use element of the current recycling sacks. If you feel your household recycles a substantial amount per week, you will be able to order an additional bag if required.

SDC will be delivering the bags, and instructions on how to use them to every home over the next few months. It will continue collecting the white recycling sacks but will be phasing them out in due course for most properties apart from some hard-to-reach flats.

Black bags for perishable or non-recycling waste will continue being collected as normal.

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

***Cllr Michael Horwood***

# County Councillor's Report

## Roger Gough



As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, installation of the 20mph zone was set for the end of May/ beginning of June. There were some short-term disruptions, including a medical emergency on site, but contractors returned to complete the works, including some unfinished roundels, in late June.

The condition of hedgerows and vegetation in School Lane was raised with me by the Residents Association and Town Councillors with a request that it needed to be addressed before the school returned. I took this up with our officers and our soft landscaping team organised a cutback of the vegetation during August.

The condition of the culvert has also been raised and our drainage team have raised a job for the culvert to be dug out and cleansed. The work is scheduled to take place on or before 6 November.

Recent months have again seen the impact of road works and closures, chiefly by utilities but also by KCC as we carry out road repairs. As the highway authority, KCC is stuck in the middle, especially when utilities carry out road works under emergency provisions, which make it impossible to plan and coordinate what happens. I have some senior councillors and officers within KCC working on the best ways to mitigate an issue that - because of the need to replace or upgrade a lot of our utility infrastructure - will not go away, either in Kent or across the country. In part, however, this will require changes to national policy, which we continue to press for.

As ever, I can be reached by phone (01959 525109) or by email, [roger.gough@kent.gov.uk](mailto:roger.gough@kent.gov.uk) My website, [www.roger-gough.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.roger-gough.blogspot.co.uk) reports on what I'm doing across the Sevenoaks North and Darent Valley Division, and I am on Twitter @RogerGough2 and on Facebook [www.facebook.com/RogerDVKent](http://www.facebook.com/RogerDVKent)

# St. Paul's CE Primary School



As the new academic year unfolds, I am delighted to share the excitement and enthusiasm that has filled our school. We have had a truly wonderful start and it's been a pleasure to welcome many new families into our school community, with many of the new families joining us from Swanley Village. The warmth and support from our existing families have made this transition seamless for our new children and parents alike. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the incredibly staff that strive to ensure every child can flourish at St. Paul's.

During the first three days of term, our classrooms were buzzing with curiosity and inspiration as the children embarked on an engaging learning journey. Each class focused on a remarkable woman who has left a lasting impact on the world. Oak Class explored the legacy of fashion icon Coco Chanel, Birch Class delved into the discoveries of pioneering palaeontologist Mary Anning, Beech Class took to the skies with aviation trailblazer Amelia Earhart and Maple Class was inspired by the bravery and compassion of nurse Mary Seacole.

In addition to these incredible figures, our children have also been introduced to the work of several influential female artists. This focus on remarkable women aligns beautifully with our commitment to fostering a learning environment where all children can see themselves as capable of achieving greatness.

We are now fully immersed in the curriculum, and it's wonderful to see the children engaged and eager to learn. Our staff have worked hard to create lessons that are both challenging and exciting, ensuring that each child can thrive.

Looking ahead, we are keen to strengthen our ties with the wider community. **I am pleased to invite you to our Harvest Festival on the 4th of October at 9am at St. Paul's Church. This annual celebration is a cherished tradition at St. Paul's, and we warmly welcome all families and community members to join us.** It's a wonderful opportunity to come together, give thanks and support those in need. Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Harvest Festival and throughout the school year.

***James Johnson***

**Head of School**

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

# Young Peoples Activities



The summer holidays has been particularly busy with many activities including the ever popular Holiday Club.

Now we are into the autumn term I should like to remind everyone of our regular activities:

**Baby and Toddler Group:** Every Thursday 1:30pm (Term Time)

**After School Club:** Every other Thursday 4:00pm (Term Time)

**Youth Group:** Every Wednesday 6:30pm-8:00pm in Next Door Hextable Cafe

## *Special Events*

**Light Party:** 31st October - 4:30-6:00pm - For Primary School Age Children

Bea Reid

Children's & Youth Pastor

St Peters Hextable & St Pauls Swanley Village

## *Next Door Hextable* *Afternoon Tea or* *Cream Tea bookings*

Special Occasion? Planning a get together  
with a group of friends or family?

Pre booked afternoon teas or cream teas  
available at the café.

Prices vary according to requirements,  
starting from £7 per person.

Email [cafe@stph.org.uk](mailto:cafe@stph.org.uk) to book in.

# St. Peter's, Hextable & St. Paul's, Swanley Village

St Paul's and St Peter's are one church family in two locations giving different expressions of Christian worship in the parish. Our reach in serving the community in so many ways is growing significantly through both congregations and our café and community hub, 'Next Door Hextable' (NDH), which opened more than two years ago. St Paul's has become increasingly well-used for Christenings, Weddings and funerals with an expanding Sunday morning congregation. The café, as well as being open 6 days a week, hosts various activities through the year. Do look up *Next Door Hextable* FaceBook page for further details. A large venue is also available for private catered events such as funeral wakes.



After the special summer events, this month sees the resumption of our programme of activities at St Peter's for children and young people, coordinated by Bea Reid. This includes weekday babies and toddlers' activities for parents, carers, grandparents etc, and after-school and Sunday activities for children and young people. Bea also works with St Paul's School in the village and at Hextable Primary too. If you have any questions or want to know more, don't hesitate to get in touch Bea - [bea@stph.org.uk](mailto:bea@stph.org.uk).

You are so very welcome at any of our **Sunday services**:

8.30am - traditional Holy Communion (about 45 mins) at St Paul's

10.30am - informal service of band-led worship, teaching and ministry, with a full programme for children during the service (about 75 mins) at St Peter's

7.30pm 'Overflow' - a contemporary-style service of worship first Sunday of the month (about 60 mins) at St Peter's

In addition, there is a morning communion service at St Paul's at 11.30am on **the first Wednesday of the month**.

Our continued aim is to better serve our communities. We also want to serve villagers practically and, as part of this, are welcoming use of St Paul's for events and meetings when it isn't being used by the church. If our spaces can ever serve you, do just ask!

***If you would like any further information about any church events or to book Christenings and Weddings at St Paul's, please ring the church office on 01322 662320 and speak to Sue Haward or email [office@stph.org.uk](mailto:office@stph.org.uk)***

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johnny".

**Revd Johnny Douglas**

## Yoga and Meditation Classes

With Clair Yates

- Wednesday 9:30 – 10:45 am
- Friday 9:30 – 10:45 am

At The Howard Venue, 39 Egerton Avenue, Hextable, BR8 7LG

Experience the benefits of connecting with yourself through yoga and meditation workshops, including the British Wheel of Yoga Foundation Course.

Call or text Clair on 07974 728839 / Email: [Clair@clairyates.com](mailto:Clair@clairyates.com)

[@clairyates.wellbeing](mailto:@clairyates.wellbeing) / [www.clairyates.com](http://www.clairyates.com)

## #1 One City Maintenance Ltd

Property Maintenance company based in Swanley Village

We provide a wide range of services

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- Plumbing
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- Complete renovations
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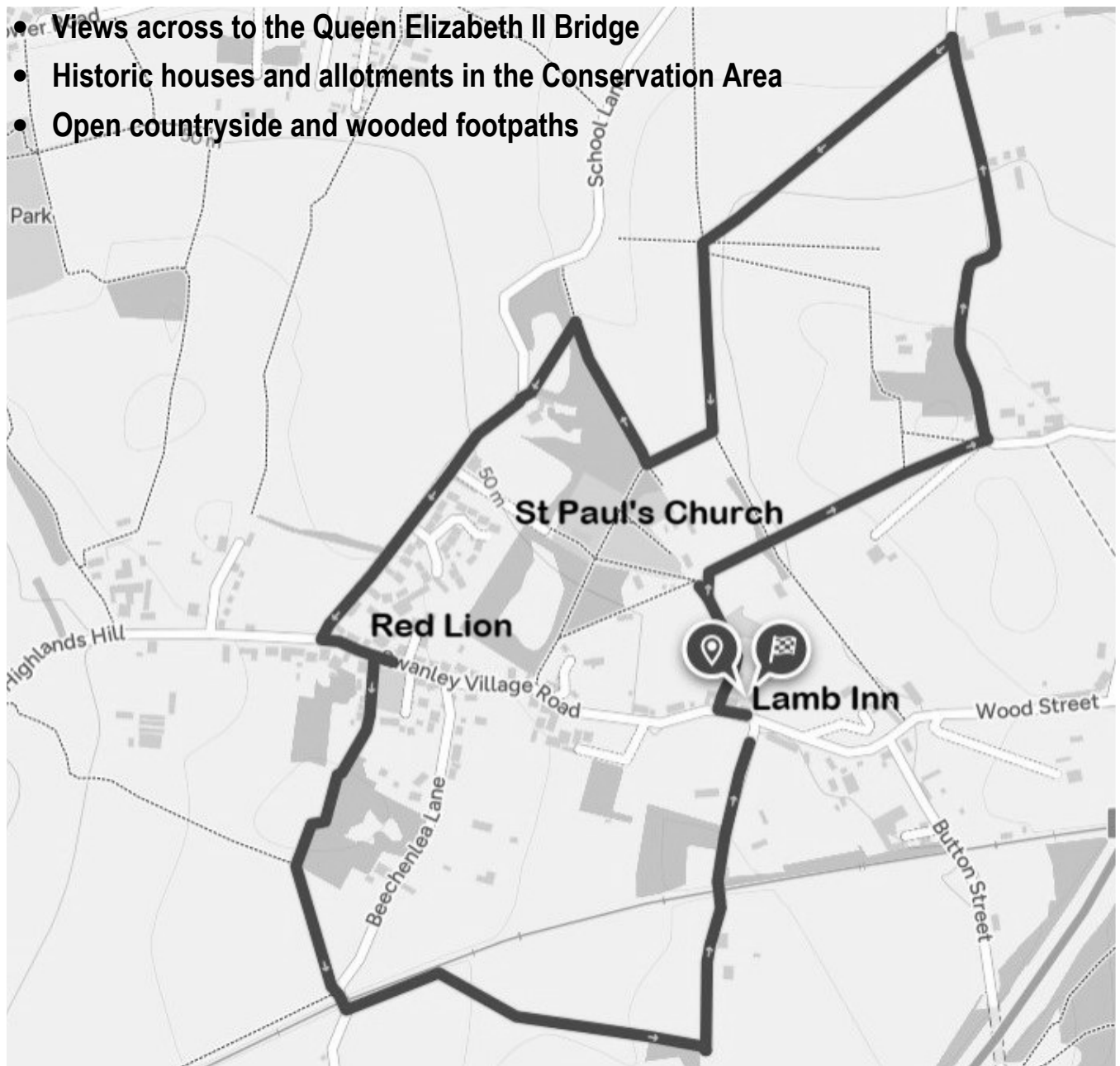
## Village Walks

In response to a request made in a previous newsletter one kind village dog walker has written up several of her walks. We are planning to put those on a sheet and make them available from either of the village pubs or via email from [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com)

Here is a circular walk of 2 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> miles that can be picked up from either pub or (with a slight detour) from the church car park. How long it takes may depend on how long you spend in the pub, but the walking bit should be less than 1 hour 30 minutes. There are a couple of sections on Gildenhill Road and School Lane which need care. There are some stiles all but one of which can be avoided by cutting out the north east section by walking past the church.

Highlights include:


- **Great views of Swanley Village and Hextable**
- **Views across to the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge**
- **Historic houses and allotments in the Conservation Area**
- **Open countryside and wooded footpaths**



If you have a favourite walk please email it to [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com)


## 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.



# Pretty Little Styles

Personalised cards & more made  
with love by Carly Styles in Swanley Village



**Instagram**  
@pretty\_\_little\_\_styles  
**Facebook**  
Pretty Little Styles  
**Email**  
pretty\_little\_styles@outlook.com  
**Tel**  
07702216240



# The Lamb Inn

## Home Cooked Food Served Daily

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

Sunday 12.30 to 3.30.



THE ARK CATTERY –

1 Highview, Highlands Hill, Swanley Village

HEATED INDOOR PENS - VIEWINGS WELCOME

We offer luxury boarding facilities exclusively for cats

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SHG

## Swanley History Group Programme SEPT. – DEC. 2024

Wednesday 04 September

### **Swanley Past and Present**

The Toll Road, Birchwood Corner and  
White Oak Hospital site presented by  
our committee member **Esme Hodge**

Wednesday 06 November

### **The Folklore of Houses**

Mark Lewis tells us about the customs  
and superstitious practices

Wednesday 02 October

### **The Vikings Are Coming !**

Learn about those sea-faring  
Scandinavian invaders from  
historian **Imogen Corrigan**

Wednesday 04 December

### **Edwardian London**

The beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
with many changes and pressures -  
Blue Badge Guide **Ian Bevan**

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

Further information- visit webpage [swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com](http://swanleyhistorygroup.weebly.com) or email  
[swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk) Programme may be subject to change without prior notice

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.

If anyone would like an article to be included in the next Newsletter, please contact the Editor: [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com). The newsletter is also published on the web site: [www.swanleyvillage.uk](http://www.swanleyvillage.uk)

**Thanks to everyone who helps to produce this Newsletter and to distribute it around the village**

### **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 have been able to contribute towards the hanging baskets in the village. If you wish to contribute, please do this by either:

**Paying on line - bank transfer the details are:**

**Sort code 30-98-97**

**Account number: 82997563**

**Please use your name as a reference for the payment.**

**Please send an email to [SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com](mailto:SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com) to let us know you have paid.**

Please consider setting up a standing order. Or by cheque made payable to Swanley Village Residents' Association and send to :

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