

Swanley Village News

Issue No.134

November 2024

The Quarterly Newsletter for the residents & friends of Swanley Village



Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year

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
Hextable & Swanley Village WI	Janet.Burnett@btinternet.com
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

Saturday 30th November 4.00pm

Lighting village Christmas tree at the top of School Lane. Please bring along a bauble to decorate the tree.

Saturday 7th December 7.30pm

Swanley Village Christmas Party at Five Wents Hall

Sunday 15th December noon to 3pm

Festive Fare at The Old Vicarage, School Lane.

St Peter's and St Paul's Services

Saturday 7th December, 5pm – Carols on the Green Hextable

Sunday 8th December, 4:30pm -A reflective Blue Christmas at St. Paul's

Sunday 15th December, 4:30pm & 6:30pm -Carols by Candlelight at St. Paul's

Wednesday 18th December - 11:30am - Midweek Christmas Communion at St. Paul's

Tuesday 24th December, St. Paul's at 3.30 pm, & St. Peter's at 5.30pm Christingle All-age Services

Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm -Christmas Eve Communion at St. Paul's

Wednesday 25th December - 8:30am- Christmas Day Communion at St. Paul's

Wednesday 25th December - 10:30am -Christmas Day Family service at St. Peter's

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 still being sought 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

Swanley Village Residents' Association

The lane with no name. In early September a villager was walking up Highlands Hill, pushing a pram, when a vehicle pulled over and a man got out and removed a road sign from the wall. He waved her a cheery hello, but suspecting something was amiss, our hero had the presence of mind to take a picture of the car. She then sent the picture to our local PC Steven Shipley who asked her a few questions about the incident. Tracing the car to an east Kent town, Steven asked his fellow officer to make a house call. Anthony was surprised to receive the visit but located the sign where it had been erected in his back garden. The police then relayed the sign back to Ryan at Swanley Town Council, who has arranged for it to be returned to its rightful place at the bottom of Anthony Lane. The lane now has two signs – so good they named it twice! Excellent work everyone!

Each year Swanley Village Residents' Association asks for a small £5 donation towards its running costs. Each year the same villagers contribute, for which we are very grateful, thank you! Other people regularly say that it is such a small amount that they forget it, so some of you have set up standing orders to ensure you don't. For those of you who have forgotten for several years - why not set up a regular payment? If you prefer, you can make a multiple year donation of a more worthwhile amount.

Whichever method suits you, we rely on these donations to produce this newsletter, to contribute to floral displays around the village and to help keep our village clean.

Details of how to pay are below:

To pay online - bank transfer the details are:

Sort code: 30-98-97

Account number: 82997563

Please use your name as a reference for the payment and send an email to SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com to let us know you have paid.

Please consider setting up a standing order. Or send cash or cheques (**made payable to 'Swanley Village Residents' Association'**) to :

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

Bob Wallis, Chair

Swanley Village Trust

Saturday 7th December 7.30pm Christmas Party at Five Wents Hall with comedian 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 (including a welcome drink!) and we suggest you come with 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! Bring some drinks and get into the festive spirit! It's a fundraising night to help support events like the fireworks and to contribute to the maintenance of the village green.

To reserve your tickets email swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk or drop your contact details and requirements through the door at 5 Hogs Orchard.

Bonfire Night Saturday 2nd November

The Trustees are grateful for all the help we received with the bonfire, the barbecue and the firework display this year. We hope all who attended had a wonderful time. The Trust was set up to safeguard the village green space for the use of villagers and their friends, so it is fantastic to have so many people gather for a real family event. Thank you to Lizzie at The Lamb for the Beer tent and to Block and Cleaver for providing the sausages and burgers.

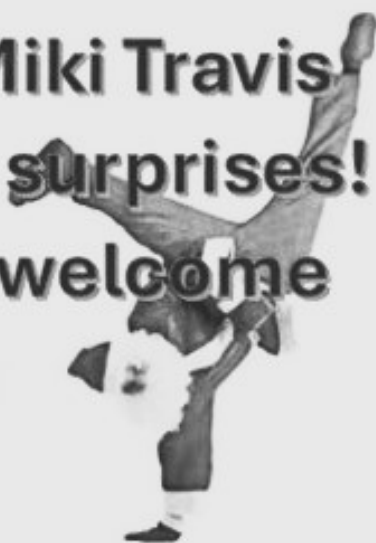


Swanley Village Christmas Party

**Saturday 7th December 7.30pm
Five Wents Hall**



**Hosted by comedian Miki Travis!
Fun, games, music and surprises!
Tickets £15 (including welcome
glass of fizz!)**



email: swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk
or to: 5 Hogs Orchard

Lighting the Christmas Tree Saturday 30th November 4pm

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 there will be a few people 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 15th 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, mince pies at The Old Vicarage.

All welcome! RSVP Barbara_Ramsey@aol.com or just turn up!



Daphne Davis 1946-2024

Daphne and Geoff Davis came to Swanley Village in 1982 and took an active role in Village life. When there was a threat that the Channel Tunnel Rail Link would come out in the centre of the Village, they became fully involved in the fundraising activities of Swanley Action Group and this continued in their support for the Swanley Village Trust events, including "chicken and chili evenings" and bonfire nights. She and Geoff took over the running of the Trust's 100 Club which they ran successfully for many years.



Daphne was a committee member for the Residents' Association, and she would regularly check streetlamps and report any faults. She was also very active in enforcing speed limits in the Village when the Village had a speed monitor – Daphne was a force to be reckoned with for any speeding motorists! Together Geoff and Daphne planted daffodils in various places around the Village, including the verge of Highlands Hill where they still provide a marvellous spring display.

Daphne and Geoff travelled worldwide over the many years until Geoff's death. Following his death and Covid, Daphne's health suffered, and she spent her final years being cared for in Emerson's Grange in Hextable.

Daphne will be long remembered for her outgoing nature and good humour as she played a major part in Village life. She will be much missed.

Swanley Village Honey
Collected by my bees at Elizabethan Cottage
Swanley Village Road
Beekeeping since 2009
454g Jar £7 or 227g Jar £7 /
Donnahoy@icloud.com or Facebook Swanley Village Honey
[@swanleyvillagehoney](https://www.facebook.com/swanleyvillagehoney)



NEXT DOOR
HEXTABLE

FESTIVE

AFTERNOON TEA

SATURDAY 14TH

DECEMBER

1-3PM

COST:

£15 PER PERSON WITH REGULAR
TEA/AMERICANO

£18 PER PERSON WITH A FESTIVE SPICED
BARISTA MADE REGULAR DRINK

**BOOK IN BY CONTACTING [RACHEL.CAFE@STPH.ORG.UK](mailto:rachel.cafe@stph.org.uk)
PAYMENT MUST BE MADE IN ADVANCE TO GUARANTEE PLACES.**

St. Paul's CE Primary School



Term 2 is always such a special time here at St. Paul's, and as the days get shorter and the festive season draws near, we feel the spirit of Christmas blossoming within our school. The excitement is palpable as children, staff and parents alike look forward to the unique activities that make this season memorable. One of the highlights this term is our school trip to the pantomime—a tradition that brings so much joy and laughter to our pupils. There's something truly magical about seeing children's faces light up as they experience this wonderful form of live theatre, many for the very first time. It's an opportunity to step outside of the classroom and enjoy the enchantment of storytelling in its most animated form.

Our Christingle service is a relatively new tradition. Gathering together with our school family and community to celebrate Christ's light brings a sense of warmth and unity that's so special this time of year. And, of course, preparations for the nativity are well underway! Rehearsals echo down the hallways and the children's enthusiasm is contagious as they practice their lines, songs and roles in this timeless story. Seeing our pupils bring the story of Christmas to life reminds us of the hope and love that this season represents.

While we embrace these festive activities, we remain fully committed to our vision for all children to "live life in all its fullness" (John 10:10). This means ensuring every child feels both supported and challenged, not just academically, but in their character and spiritual growth as well. Our staff work tirelessly to provide a nurturing environment where every child is encouraged to stretch beyond their limits and discover new talents, skills and confidence. We believe that by doing so, we're not just preparing them for the next step in their education, but helping them to build a foundation for a joyful and fulfilling life. Wishing you a joyful and peaceful season ahead,

James Johnson

Head of School

St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

County Councillor's Report

Roger Gough



The 20-mph zone has now been in place for some months. We are now looking at ways to enhance its effect with more signage and other measures. I will report back on progress on this.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that works were due to take place on the culvert on or before 6 November. The works will take place on that

date and will involve both cleansing the system and civils work to dig out the culvert and remove vegetation and debris. Hopefully that should avoid a repetition of some of the recent problems around the Swanley Village Road/ Button Street junction.

In this year's 'pothole blitz' (which in fact includes larger scale patching and preventative work), KCC's teams fixed 5,501 potholes and patched an area of 228,377m². There are reports that government, will allocate more funds to councils for this; it is certainly needed. As we head into winter, pothole fixing will be more reactive and our crews are taking control of the gritters to keep the county moving through the cold weather, treating more than 1,500 miles of road and filling over 3,000 salt bins across the county.

Roger Gough

As ever, I can be reached by phone (01959 525109) or by email, roger.gough@kent.gov.uk My website, 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](https://twitter.com/RogerGough2) and on Facebook www.facebook.com/RogerDVKent

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



A message from Vicar Johnny Douglas

The anticipation of Christmas seems to start earlier and earlier each year! And yes, it can stir up different emotions in each of us. Yet whatever we each might feel, the greatest gift-giver is God the Father, by not holding back on giving his only Son.

You are warmly invited to join us at any or all the Christmas services outlined here, or at other times to suit you. You'd be most welcome!

Wishing you a great Christmas and a most wonderful year ahead!

Blessings,

Should you ever wish a cuppa and a conversation, I would gladly welcome you in the vicarage in Hextable.

vicarjohnny@gmail.com 077990 72845. Church office: 01322 662320

Special Events in December

Saturday 7th December, 5pm

Carols on the Green, in partnership with Hextable Parish Council, with free refreshments after at Next Door Hextable

Sunday 8th December, 4:30pm

A reflective Blue Christmas at St. Paul's

Sunday 15th December, 4:30pm & 6:30pm

Carols by Candlelight at St. Paul's

Wednesday 18th December - 11:30am

Midweek Christmas Communion at St. Paul's

Saturday 21st December sees a Primary School aged special for families called Wilma Claus to be hosted at St Peter's. More details to be found on our website.

Tuesday 24th December, St. Paul's at 3.30 pm, & St. Peter's at 5.30pm Christingle All-age Services

Tuesday 24th December, 11:30pm

Christmas Eve Communion at St. Paul's

Wednesday 25th December - 8:30am

Christmas Day Communion at St. Paul's

Wednesday 25th December - 10:30am

Christmas Day Family service at St. Peter's

Regular services

St Paul's and St Peter's are one church family in two locations giving different expressions of Christian worship in the parish. You are so very welcome at any of our services:

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

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

First Sunday of the month 6.30pm 'Overflow' - a contemporary-style service of worship (about 75 mins) at St Peter's (NB in January to be held on the 8th)

First Wednesday of the month 11.30am - mid-week Communion service at St Paul's (about 45mins)

Swanley Village Home or 'Life' Group

The Swanley Village Home or 'Life' Group. We usually meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.45pm, at the Old Vicarage in School Lane, but also in other homes in the village.

Meetings are open to all, whether or not people have a church affiliation. They provide not only an important spiritual focus, but also help with the more practical issues of everyday life. These groups in people's homes have an important place in the church programme, enabling people to keep in touch with each other, providing an opportunity of catching up on each other's news, praying for each other and studying the Bible.



District Councillor's Report Michael Horwood

First of all, can I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

There are a few Town Council events as usual celebrating the Christmas Season:

Saturday 30th November 2-6pm – Town Centre 'Light Up The Town' celebrations, including live music, an elf mascot, and Santa's Grotto. Light switch on is at 6pm.

Sunday 15th December at 4pm – St Marys Church Mayor's Civic Service which includes carols, the service and free mulled wine / mince pie refreshments afterwards.

By now you should have received your recycling '**Bag For Life**' which have replaced the single-use white recycling sacks. Over the years, a number of residents have reasonably highlighted the irony of using single-use plastic sacks to collect recycling. Just to put it in context, we use millions of single-use plastic recycling sacks just to collect recycling across the District every year. A move to a 'bag for life' is an important part of helping reduce single use plastics, and ultimately reducing CO2 emissions. Understandably, this is a big change from the single use white recycling sacks we are all used to. The Council wanted to ensure that there is enough space for recycling that can fill several bags full of recycling waste, especially if it is forgotten to put out one week. It was also highlighted by residents that the bags needed to be slightly weighted at the bottom, to prevent them being blown away in moderate wind, though this of course has made the bag slightly heavier. There will be some residents who may need help carrying their bags from their property to the street. Sevenoaks District Council also offers a **free 'assisted collection'** which will ask our operatives to collect it from a specific external place of your property. To request this free help simply telephone Sevenoaks District Council on 01732 227000.

Just a brief update on **planning issues** in our area. The main one is the proposed LIDL at the end of Beechenlea Lane. Works have started to demolish the 'Swanley Garage Doors' building on the main Swanley Road in order to prepare the site, hence the hoarding up.

There is also an adjacent site to this which includes the creation of four light industrial units, which is also intending to start work soon. The major proposal for this will be the creation of a **new roundabout** at the entrance to Swanley Garage Doors. There is no timeline as to when these works will come forward, although it is anticipated in 2025. No roadworks are ever welcomed, so we are asking Kent County Council to only approve plans which keep works to an absolute minimum. I will of course keep you updated once we know more about the timelines.

Cllr Michael Horwood, Sevenoaks District Councillor for Swanley Christchurch & Swanley Village

Cllr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk



NEXT DOOR
HEXTABLE

Christmas MENU

STARTERS

Soup of the Day with crusty bread
OR
Pate and toast with onion chutney

MAIN DISHES

Traditional Christmas Turkey
OR
Chestnut Roast
Served with all the trimmings

DESSERTS

Christmas pudding with custard
OR
Mini meringue with cream and fresh fruit

DATES AVAILABLE; 11th, 12th and 13th December 12-2.30pm

£25 per person (£20 smaller portion main)

Cafe open for soft drinks and barista made drinks to buy
(You can bring your own alcoholic drinks to have with your meal)

Book in advance via cafe@stph.org.uk

£5 deposit per person payable to secure the booking



Swanley History Group

Programme – **JAN – APRIL 2025**

Wednesday 08 January 2025

**Swanley Winner! - 1962/63
News-Of-The-World Competition!
What happened next?**

Tracy Mihill tells us more

Wednesday 05 March 2025

**Hops, Inns & Pilgrims on the South
Side of London Bridge
Presented by John Halligan**

Wednesday 05 February 2025

**Annual General Meeting + Fun Quiz
Support the future of SHG and enjoy a
Quiz with fellow members**

Wednesday 02 April 2025

**Crockenhill - Keith Whitmore takes
us on a photographic Journey
through time**

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 or email
swanleyhistorygroup@hotmail.co.uk

(Programme may be subject to change without prior notice)

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

[@clairyates.wellbeing](https://www.instagram.com/clairyates.wellbeing) / www.clairyates.com

Hextable and Swanley Village WI

Please come and join us on
the 4th Thursday of every month 7.30 pm at
Five Wents Memorial, Swanley Lane, Swanley BR8 7LD

Regular events, outings and speakers:

28th November – Christmas Handicrafts

25th January – A to Z of Show-off Business

27th February – Easter Island and Polynesian Islands



Contact Details: Christine 01322 556660 or 07941261920

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



**THE ARK CATTERY –
1 Highview, Highlands Hill, Swanley Village**

HEATED INDOOR PENS - VIEWINGS WELCOME

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Property Maintenance company based in Swanley Village

We provide a wide range of services

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- Complete renovations
- All internal/external repairs
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Email: ocm.ltd@btinternet.com



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

Contact Details Swanley Village Residents' Association

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)

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 or £15 for the year (4 issues).

If anyone would like an article to be included in the **Spring** Newsletter, please contact the Editor
SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com
by **20th February 2025 at the latest.**

This newsletter is also published on the web site.

www.swanleyvillage.uk

SWANLEY VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Each year we ask each household to donate £5 to Swanley Village Residents Association. Thank you for all the payments received so far. If you haven't already donated it is not too late to do so.

Donations pay for the cost of printing the newsletter which is kindly done by St Paul's School. Contributed to new signage and the floral displays in the village.

If you wish to donate, please complete the attached form and return it with your donation to:

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

Cheques to be made payable to Swanley Village Residents Association

If you wish to pay by 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*** to let us know you have paid

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Donation: £5/other amount _____