

Swanley Village News

Issue No.131

March 2024

The Newsletter for the residents & friends of Swanley Village



Useful Contact Details

Residents' Association	e: SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com
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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 new 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 15th March to Sunday 17th March – Village Spring Clean

Good Friday 29th March 9.45am Worship & Meditation The Glebe

Easter Sunday 31st March 8.30am Communion at St Paul's Church

Easter Sunday 31st March – Easter Egg Hunt 11am Village Green

Saturday 6th April – Village Quiz Five Wents 7.30pm

Monday 13th May Swanley Village Trust & Residents' Association
AGMs 8pm St Paul's Church.

Save the Date

Saturday 8th June 2-5pm SUMS Summer Fete The Old Vicarage

Saturday 6th July St Paul's School Summer Fete

Saturday 2nd November 6pm Village bonfire and fireworks.

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

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

Among this village's greatest attractions are its open spaces and opportunities for getting out and about in the fresh air. On foot, on horseback, on a bike we are surrounded by fields and woods with a network of footpaths and lanes.



At our recent committee meeting we discussed the condition of our local footpaths and the safety of our roads (see Cllr Gough update re 20mph in his article).

As part of preserving and maintaining these footpaths and bridleways can you share your best local walks with us? Tell us about your dog's favourite walk (or your horse's); or a walk that you can do pushing a buggy and avoiding stiles; or the long yomp that brings you back to a thirst-quenching drink in The Lamb Inn or the Red Lion. It's not just about the walk, it's about the views, habitat and buildings you

can see along the way. Email swanleyvillagera@outlook.com and if we get enough good suggestions we will put them online and into a leaflet.

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the Litter Pick 15 to 17 March and the AGM on Monday 13 May at 8pm in St Paul's Church – all are welcome!

Every little helps!

Swanley Village Residents' Association pays for the distribution of this newsletter; makes a contribution to the planting and floral displays around the village; pays for the litter pickers and some other sundry items that help keep the village looking its best; and supports things that make a positive contribution to village life. If you haven't done so already please make your annual £5 per household contribution – details of how to do so are on the back page. Thank you!

Bob Wallis, Chair

Swanley Village Trust

Quiz Night and Fish & Chip Supper

Saturday 6th April 2024, 7.30pm Five Wents Hall

We are delighted to offer you the opportunity of getting together with friends to pit your wits against your neighbours and to share a drink and an evening of good-natured fun. The quiz is back after Easter – so cajole your friends and come along! The proceeds raised contribute to the Trust which maintains the village green for the benefit of us all. Tickets are £12 each, (price includes a fish, chicken or pasty supper) and teams of up to 8 can compete. Email swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk to book your place or drop a note through the door at 5 Hogs Orchard with your contact details.

Swanley Village Fireworks

In 2023 the Trust was unable to organise its usual Fireworks event on the village green because there simply weren't enough people around to organise it safely. We rely heavily on volunteers making a commitment to give up some time to make our events the success that we all want them to be. This year, with plenty of notice, we want to hear from people who will be prepared to spend time cooking sausages, putting up and taking down the tarpaulin covers, picking up provisions, selling sweets and sparklers. With your help we can ensure one of the most popular local firework displays goes ahead this coming November.

Swanley Village 100 Club.

If you haven't joined the 100 Club - it costs a pound a week (payable in a lump sum in advance) and every two months prizes are drawn for those months and funds given out. It is a simple way to support the village green and village events. Renewals happen every year in August, so drop Steve or Keith a line or give them a ring to ask them to get in touch!

Keith Rowland, Mistover, 01322 662415, mistover1@aol.com

Steve Hunt, The Ark Cattery, 01322 668584, steve.103hunt@gmail.com

Message from Leader of Swanley Town Council



Dear All,

A belated Happy New Year to you all! There are a few things to update you on from a Sevenoaks District Council and Town Council side of things:

Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) is required by Government to produce a 'Local Plan' to state how and where housing will be allowed to be built in order to meet future need (essentially housing targets). Failure to put together a Local Plan can mean that when individual planning applications come forward, the National Planning Inspector is likely to approve them, even if they are in Green Belt or in a protected area.

As part of that process, SDC is required to allow 10,500 new homes to be built across the District up until 2040. Having asked major landowners which plots of land are suitable, Pedham Place Golf Course (the other side of the M25 and opposite the end of Button Street where it meets Farningham Hill) has been put forward as a potential site for 2,500 homes. This is the same as it was in the last Local Plan, which overall was not approved by the National Planning Inspector, due to the failure to allocate enough land to build homes. Separate to that, there is also a proposal to put a major WASPS Rugby Stadium on the site or nearby.

The good news is that the 3000 home Garden Village between Swanley and Swanley Village has not been included at all this time around. There is also no major development proposed for the village.

However, the Local Plan doesn't look at potential development of a site with dwellings under ten, so that won't prevent any small-scale development potentially coming forward in Swanley Village in an individual planning application, as happens from time to time. I'm not aware of anything, but it's worth clarifying that point.

We will find out in March 2024 the next step for the proposals and which developments are likely to be put forward as the next part of the Local Plan.

Planning Applications

Harringtons Nursery (bottom of Highlands Hill) – I believe houses are now available for purchase on Rightmove. Cllr Chris Prestedge has also spoken with the developers and site manager about being more considerate of traffic and parking issues caused by construction vehicles, which appears to have improved.

Swanley LIDL – The planning application for this has now been granted. The store is proposed off London Road adjacent to Beechenlea Lane. It is proposed that a new roundabout be built between the bridge and Beechenlea Lane which will lead to the LIDL store, and 48 houses further up on the land behind Beechenlea Lane. No access to this will be via Beechenlea Lane, and local Councillors were successful in implementing a number of restrictions on site, such as store opening times (7-10pm) and store delivery times (only during those hours, not outside those hours).

Footpath – Highlands Hill – Sevenoaks District Council has approved funding from CIL (new development contributions) to improve the footpath from Harrington’s Nursery to outside the Red Lion Pub. Although currently in very early stages, this should allow KCC to improve the footpath which runs up the back of the field to opposite the Red Lion, making it safer, more accessible and less muddy during the winter months. This will be a safer alternative, albeit slightly longer, to walking down Highlands Hill.

Splash Park – Swanley Park

Following much feedback and discussions, we have agreed to put a permanent ‘booking’ system in for the splash park. The splash park is immensely popular, and in Summer can be incredibly busy, often exceeding the numbers it was intended for. This year, we will be trialling a booking system for sessions in the park, in order to restrict numbers and make the experience far more enjoyable and safer for all. There will be NO CHARGE for this, and it is not our intention to create one, it will remain free.

As part of this, sadly we will have to erect a green mesh fence round the area. Experience has taught us that families often just pick up their children and place them over the wooden fence, therefore in a busy summer this would be unmanageable, and therefore a more robust fence is required. This also has added benefits, as it will prevent wild animals entering the pool at night, and prevent vandalism. We believe it will allow a better experience and more importantly, a safer one for all the young children.

As always, if you would like to speak to me about any local matter (don’t worry if you’re not sure which Council it belongs to!), please contact me on cllr.horwood@sevenoaks.gov.uk or telephone 07815 483891 (please leave a voicemail if I cannot answer).

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

Cllr Chris Prestedge – Swanley Town Councillor for Swanley Village

County Councillor's Report

Roger Gough



Following Kent Highways' consultation on the 20mph speed limit in various parts of the village, and with a Traffic Regulation Order having been signed off, we are awaiting the final design and pricing up stage. Once this is agreed and completed, it will be handed to a delivery team within Kent Highways who will deliver it within a 90 day window. So it's not quite imminent,

but it is getting a lot closer.

With regard to the overall condition of the roads, the good news is that the government has committed (via recycling some funding from HS2) £134.5 million to Kent over the next ten years for road maintenance and improvement. The less good news is that this will be backloaded, so £4.5 million per annum for Kent for the first two years. This is a sum that will not go very far in a county as big as Kent, but it is a start, and with predictable funding for the next few years we can launch initiatives such as our pothole blitz in the knowledge of what we can spend and when, delivering the best value for the funding that we have.

Before Christmas, KCC bid successfully for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from Sevenoaks District Council to support improvements to Rights of Way. This includes works to reinstate the full width and create an all weather surface on SD92, which should improve links from the Harrington's nursery end of Highlands Hill to the centre of the village. However, this project will not be within the first year's spend of the CIL funding, but hopefully can be worked up and delivered in 2025.

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 and on Facebook www.facebook.com/RogerDVKent

St. Paul's CE Primary School



As we embark on a new year filled with hope and community spirit, I am delighted to share some exciting updates from St. Paul's Church of England Primary School.

Christmas at St. Paul's was truly a magical time. Our children dazzled audiences with their vibrant performances in the annual pantomime, spreading joy and laughter throughout the school community. The nativity play, a cherished tradition, reminded us all of the true meaning of the season, as our talented children brought the story of the birth of Jesus to life with passion and enthusiasm.

Additionally, our festive church service brought together children, staff, and families in a heart-warming celebration of unity and faith.

In the past year, our school has embarked on numerous enriching trips and experiences. From exploring the charming surroundings of Whitstable Harbour to showcasing our musical talents at the prestigious O2 arena as part of the Young Voices choir, our children have embraced every opportunity for learning and growth beyond the classroom walls.

I am thrilled to announce that St. Paul's has received recognition for our outstanding phonics results. We recently received a letter from the Minister for Schools commending our school for being in the top 1% nationwide for last year's phonics outcomes. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff and children, and we are incredibly proud of this accomplishment.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated staff for their unwavering commitment to supporting our children in living life in all its fullness, as stated in John 10:10. Their tireless efforts and passion for education ensure that our children thrive academically, socially, and spiritually.

On a more practical note, I understand that parking continues to be a concern for our community. Rest assured we are actively working to address this issue. Next term, we will be implementing measures to improve parking arrangements and alleviate congestion around the school premises. Your cooperation and patience during this time are greatly appreciated as we strive to create a safer and more efficient environment for all.

As we look ahead to the coming months, I am filled with optimism and gratitude for the unwavering support of our village community. Together, we will continue to nurture and empower the young minds of St. Paul's, shaping a future filled with promise and opportunity.

Warm regards,

James Johnson

Head of School

St. Paul's Church of England Primary School

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

One Church in two locations



A message from Vicar Johnny Douglas

Easter 2024

With so much distress in the world around us we can be especially thankful for signs of winter giving away to Spring and new life. If you haven't seen the beautiful graveyard at St Paul's in the spring, with its carpet of snowdrops, crocuses and primroses, do take time this year to experience the beauty of it all. The warmer weather and spring rains are a challenge too when it comes to grass cutting, so please understand the demands on our contractors and the much-valued Community Payback team as they try to keep on top of it all during a period of rapid growth with a need also to preserve the spring floral displays.

Spring heralds the coming of Easter, which for Christians everywhere is so significant as we remember that Jesus' dying gave way to His resurrection, which means we don't have to fear death anymore. By trusting in Jesus, we have new life too! That's the heart of the message of Easter. We'd love to share more of this at our Easter and regular services, which are listed below.

You would also be welcome at our 'Next Door Hextable' community café at St Peter's, which this month celebrates its second birthday. We have been greatly encouraged by the many from our local community who have come to enjoy coffee, refreshments and chat with friends. Our regular opening hours are: Monday 9am-3.30pm, Tuesday 9am-3.30pm, Wednesday 9am-3.30pm, Thursday 9am-5pm, Friday 9am-5pm and Saturday 9am-3pm with other pop-up events.

If there are ways we can serve, assist or pray for you, don't hesitate to email me at vicarjohnny@gmail.com or call or text me on 077990 78245 for a cuppa together.

Blessings, 

Revd Dr Johnny Douglas

Special services and events

Palm Sunday 24th March 8.30am **St Paul's** and 10.30am at **St. Peter's**.

From Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday,
there will be video messages released on our Church Facebook page.

Good Friday 29th March 9.45am Worship & meditation at The Glebe at **St. Paul's** followed by Walk of Witness to **St. Peter's** for a service at 10.30am with Hot Cross Buns!

Easter Saturday 30th March 1pm Family **Easter Experience** at **St Peter's**

Easter Sunday 31st March 8.30am Communion at **St. Paul's** 10.30am Celebration at **St. Peter's**
6:30pm Re-commitment 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 will receive a warm and friendly welcome on:

Sundays 8.30am - 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**

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

For more details see www.stph.org.uk/ or ring the church office: 01322 662320

Swanley Village Home or 'Life' Group

We meet fortnightly, usually 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.

For further information contact David and Pauline Pearson (Pine Cottage, Beechenlea Lane - 01322 614237 or 07836 376 803) or any member of the group for further information.



**MEET UP
CLEAN UP**

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

SWANLEY VILLAGE LITTER PICK

**FRIDAY 15TH MARCH to SUNDAY 17TH
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 RED LION PUB; THE LAMB INN OR
THE PORCH AT 5 HOGS ORCHARD**

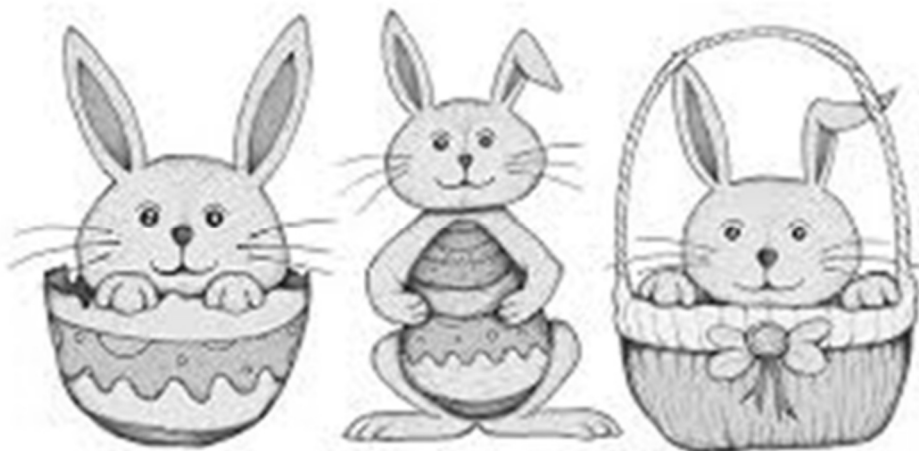


Sunday 31st March 2024 – Easter Sunday

11am until 12 noon

On the Village Green

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday for the children of villagers and their friends on Easter Sunday. Please just come along and collect your ticket and basket from Donna on the day.



SWANLEY VILLAGE TRUST

FUND RAISING EVENT

******DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES******

QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 6th April

with Fish and Chip Supper

FIVE WENTS HALL

7.30 pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW

£12 p/p – organise a team (max 8) or come on your own and get to know some new people!

Bring your own drinks, glasses, cutlery

Email the Trust at

swanley_village_trust@yahoo.co.uk

Or drop a note through the door with your contact details and payment by cheque or cash please to 5 Hogs Orchard

Tickets are limited for this popular event!!



The Lamb Inn Home Cooked Food Served Daily

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

Sunday 12.30 to 3.30.

Great entertainment

The Lamb hosts a wide variety of entertainment and events throughout the year. To find out what's coming up next, check the blackboards in the pub or follow our Facebook page.



Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March 2-4pm

Afternoon Tea

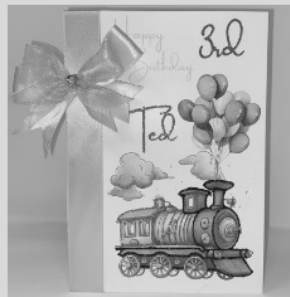
Selection of sandwiches, cakes and scones with tea or coffee £15 per person. (Upgrade to a barista made hot drink £18 per person)

Book in via cafe@stph.org.uk or pop into Next Door Hextable Café



Pretty Little Styles

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



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Red Lion Swanley Village

Quiz afternoon Sunday
fortnightly 3-5pm please come
along and join us if you can.

Date for your diary – Charity
Day Event Saturday 9th March -
more details on the blackboards
outside to follow.



**Next Door Hextable
Board Games Cafe
Last Friday each month
7-9.30pm**

**Free to join in.
Hot and cold drinks, snacks and cakes
available to buy.**





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

HEATED INDOOR PENS - VIEWINGS WELCOME

We offer luxury boarding facilities exclusively for cats
☎ 01322 668584 / 07966 999260



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**

FOR SALE

Spacious apartment on Umbria / Tuscany border

£165,000

A SW facing, light, bright modern (1990s) apartment on the ground floor of a small, quiet residential block with lovely views of the hills and Lake Trasimene, on the edge of Tuoro sul Trasimeno, a friendly village with bars, restaurants, shops, PO, bank, pharmacy, etc. 3 minutes walk to the piazza. Tuoro is S of Florence, N of Rome, both accessible by rail, mainline station less than 6 miles away. Nearest airports: Perugia (35 min drive away), Florence, Pisa, Bologna.

The accommodation consists of spacious lounge / dining area with woodburning stove, fully fitted and well-equipped kitchen, 3 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Efficient central heating. Large tiled terrace to 3 sides. Double garage and private parking. Shutters at every window. Very easy to lock up and leave.

For sale fully furnished and equipped – all ready to receive you! After 20+ years ownership, selling with great reluctance due to advancing years

Contact Tuoroapartment@gmail.com / 01322 664086

Looking for a space for a meeting or event in the village?



For many, St Paul's is a beautiful church building in a lovely setting used for worship and special celebrations like christenings, weddings and funerals, but we want it to be more than that. For most of the week it stands empty, and we would love to share the facilities we have with the village.

There is a space at the back (near the entrance) which is available for small group meetings, up to 30, with flexible seating. The larger church area might suit a display or performance in keeping with the church and its limitations, in terms of its fixtures e.g. pews and altar area.

If you are interested in discussing possibilities, please ring the church office on 01322 662320 and speak to Sue Haward or email office@stph.org.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.

If anyone would like an article to be included in the **Summer Newsletter**, please contact the Editor: SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com by **10th May 2024 at the latest.**

This newsletter is also published on the web site: www.swanleyvillage.uk

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)

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

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 equipment 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 _____