

# *Swanley Village News*

*Issue No.132*

*May 2024*

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



## Useful Contact Details

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

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

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

**Saturday 6th July - St Paul's School Summer Fete**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August - deadline for 100 Club subscriptions**

## **Save the Date**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 6pm Village bonfire and fireworks

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December Village Christmas Event Five Wents

**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 Trust*

Our grateful thanks to Donna for organising another Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. She warded off the bad weather and everyone had a great time hunting (and eating)!

We had an excellent quiz night on Saturday 6 April at Five Wents Hall. It had been over a year since our last quiz and we were delighted to welcome 80 people for an enjoyable evening of fish, chicken or pasties with drinks and some brain ticklers thrown in. The Trust is enormously grateful to Steve Hunt who took on the role of Quiz Setter and Quiz Master for the evening; and to Brenda Rowland for using the abacus and slide rule to arrive at the (very close!) scores. Thank you also to quizzers who bought raffle tickets and played bingo to help us raise £500 to help maintain the Village Green. It makes an important contribution to the cost of mowing, dog waste bins and fencing!

Another major contributor to these costs is the Village 100 Club. If you are not a member but would like the opportunity to be part of the regular cash prize draws, get in touch with Keith or Steve whose details are below.

**STOP PRESS:** we are planning for a pre-Christmas event on Saturday 7 December – details will follow later this year.

### *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@googlemail.com

## Swanley Village Residents' Association

Since the last newsletter there has been a litany of road related issues in and around the village. Closures have happened with great regularity; floods in the usual places; and then there was the mobile toilet block that sat under the M25 bridge on Button Street for 2 months. I know sites like FixMyStreet are popular but I would encourage reporting on Sevenoaks.gov.uk where you will be given a reference number that can be chased and then forwarded to your local councillor if you get no joy!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Litter Pick over the weekend of 15-17 March. Once again we managed to fill the skip kindly supplied by Swanley Town Council. Special mention to the Ship Lane crew and to Mark Johnson with his gator.



The new PC Steven Shipley for the area introduced himself and came for an early morning walk around the village. He was interested to see the network of footpaths and witnessed an array of driving and parking skills, not all of which are in the Highway Code!

PC Shipley has also had speed gun training, so we may have need of his services when the 20mph limit finally comes into operation. I confess to having been a thorn in their sides about this but I am grateful for the time, effort and finance that Cllrs Gough and Horwood have put into this project. From my perspective it won't be finished though until the limit encompasses the whole village.

***Bob Wallis***  
***Chair***

## The Red Lion, Swanley Village



**Harry J Curtis**, the new manager at The Red Lion, is incredibly grateful for the welcome he has been given by customers since his 20 April ‘Opening Event’! He has asked his patrons to bear with him as the management undertakes significant investment in the building: cleaning everything; clearing up the car park; smartening the outdoor space at the back; replacing the restaurant floor and redecorating that room (for

those old enough to remember it as a restaurant!); refurbishing the bar and its furniture. Harry has a lot on his hands but says he’s really looking forward to finding the right chef to make an exciting food offering available later in the summer.

As a professional entertainer for many years, based in Tenerife, Harry’s career was diverted by cancer, since when he has restricted his singing engagements to fundraising for his favourite cancer charity. No surprise that he is scheduling a series of musical dates, including ***Tenerife’s Irish Elvis on 13 July***. In addition to entertainment, Harry wants to promote both women’s and men’s darts and is looking for someone to set up and run a pool team on the popular table.

Harry enjoys chatting to villagers about the future of The Red Lion and says he can’t thank people enough for the warm welcome he has been given!



# St. Paul's CE Primary School



The summer term has started in full swing and the children in both Birch - Reception class and Oak class of years 1 and 2, have been very much enjoying their weekly swim sessions at White Oaks Leisure Centre and gaining a really important life skill. We pride ourselves on being able to send our children from Reception to Year 6, to weekly swim lessons and are very grateful to our staff for making this happen.

Beech class have taken the children to Kent Life, to immerse the children in the lives of the Ancient Greeks, to tie in nicely with their history topic. Oak class have been on a visit to Wingham Wildlife Park, to learn all about animals and their habitats.

We are very much looking forward to hosting our annual event of 'A night of Young Voices', as St. Peter's Church. The whole school will perform the songs learnt and performed by Key Stage 2 at the Young Voices concert at the O2 back in January. It is a wonderful evening, where parents and carers are invited to join our whole school community and enjoy the children's fantastic renditions of some well know favourite songs!

The PTA have continued their fantastic work with the school, running our annual Tough Mudder event, where children raised money for the school through sponsorships, crawling under nets and jumping over tyres in the mud. The children thoroughly enjoy the course and were especially grateful to refuel with the Krispy Kreme doughnuts sold afterwards! The children enjoyed an end of term Glow in the Dark disco, where they were able to draw on their white t-shirts with special pens, that made them literally glow.

The next big event to look forward to from the PTA, is the Summer Fun Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July, between 12 noon and 4pm on the glebe. There will plenty for everyone to enjoy, including: bouncy castles, face painting, hook a duck, food for all with a BBQ and ice-cream van, a raffle with lots of amazing prizes and much more! Please come along to support our school with your friends and family, for a fun-filled day in the sunshine.

Finally, we would like to thank those parents and carers, who have been working with us to improve the parking on School Lane. We have continued to place cones outside of the school gate, to deter drivers from turning at the bottom of School Lane. The Red Lion pub continue to allow parents to park in their car park both before and after school.

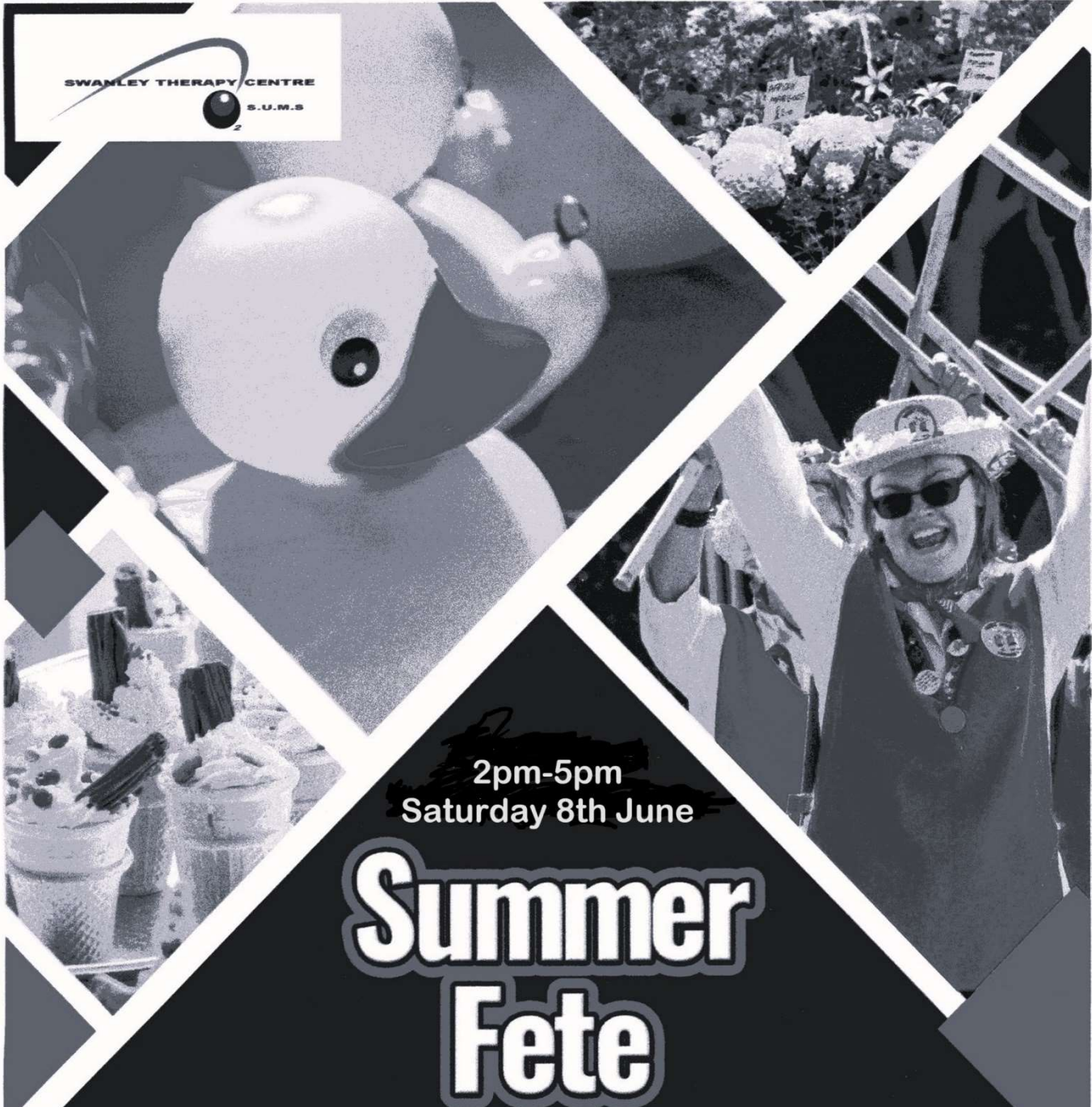
Warm regards,

James Johnson

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



SWANLEY THERAPY CENTRE  
S.U.M.S



2pm-5pm  
Saturday 8th June

# Summer Fete

The Old Vicarage, School Lane, Swanley Village, Kent, BR8 7PJ

Games  
Craft Stalls  
Face Painting  
Bottle Tombola

Recycled Jazz  
&  
Westhill Morris  
Dancers

Refreshments  
Cakes  
Ice-Cream Van  
and more!!

Entrance £3 - includes entry into door draw - all proceeds to Swanley Therapy Centre



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



### ***A message from Vicar Johnny Douglas***

Our thanks to all who shared with us over the recent Easter season. It was so good to see so many new faces at recent events whether in a formal service or a special event such as Pizza making for children at our community café, 'Next Door Hextable'.

Over the summer months we have a number of community events planned, including a **Summer Fun Day** at St Peter's on **Saturday 20th July** from 12.00-3.00pm and a rolling programme of 'specials' in the café – quiz, board games, music nights, menu specials, school holiday events and more. For more information, keep an eye on our Facebook pages for 'St Peter's Hextable & St Paul's Swanley Village' and 'Next Door Hextable', or contact us by phone or email, as below.

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

8.30am - traditional Holy Communion (about 40 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

6.30pm 'Overflow' - a contemporary-style service of worship first Sunday of the month (about 60)

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

***If you would like any further information 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)***



***Revd Dr Johnny Douglas***

## County Councillor's Report Roger Gough

In the last newsletter, I reported that we were close to the 20mph speed limit scheme being handed over to a delivery team and added that, while it was not then imminent, it was getting a lot closer. We now have a delivery date of 29/30 May, so it should be in place very shortly.



In recent months there have been a number of road closures in the village, reflecting both highways' repairs (such as at Gildenhill Road) and various utility works (in particular on Highlands Hill). Some Thames Water works were completed a few weeks ago, and at the time of writing there is a Kent Highways closure (also on Highlands Hill) to replace a street lighting column due on 30 April. This will be between 9:30 and 2:30 to avoid an impact on school drop off and pick up, and many recent closures have similarly sought to avoid affecting this. (Closures related to the 20mph zone are scheduled for half term).

Kent Highways' pothole blitz has been under way since March, with an additional £8.6 million available for this financial year. This is on top of around £50 million committed to our maintenance budgets for roads and footways. After two winters which have severely affected our roads, we will need all this and more, but hopefully the effects of this investment will be seen over the coming weeks and months.

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)

### Message from Leader of Swanley Town Council



#### Sevenoaks District Council Local Plan

As I mentioned in the last newsletter, Sevenoaks District Council is producing its Local Plan, to state where new homes will be built in the District, as required to do so by Government. This is a key planning document about where the Council views housing development should go – but it doesn't prevent individual planning applications coming forward at some point in the future, being considered outside of the Local Plan process.

Around 5,300 residents across the district responded to the consultation advertised in the In Shape magazine, which is delivered to every home in the district. The good news is that there are very few sites in Swanley's Green Belt that are at risk. This is a big change from six years ago where 3,000 houses were proposed on all the land between Swanley Village and Swanley. This plan will ensure this land is preserved for another generation.

### **Household Waste Recycling Centre Changes – some good news for once...!**

Many residents may not know, but the Government has ensured Councils do not charge for certain household waste collections. This means that charges at the Swanley KCC Tip (the Teardrop Centre) have now been removed as of December 2023.

Items previously charged for such as rubble, breezeblocks, concrete, ceramic bathroom and kitchen items, plasterboard and tiles can now be deposited without charge. However, there are limits (which can be found on the booking website) and residents must ensure they meet them otherwise they may be charged.

The only thing to continue to be charged for is car or van tyres. Although this is to be welcomed, you may still wish to use waste clearance services. Please be very careful who you hire – all waste clearance services (van drivers etc) must have a waste carrier license. Always ask for this and take a picture of it, along with the vehicle should you use these services. Should your waste be found fly tipped down a country lane, you will be liable, and prosecutions have occurred – so please always check and document a waste carrier license before you agree for anyone to take your rubbish!

### **Spring Clean**

I was delighted to join the Swanley Village Spring Clean, which is supported by Swanley Town Council and provides a skip for rubbish to be collected and taken away. I want to say a huge thank you to all volunteers in the village who gave up their time to litter pick across the village.

### **20 MPH Zone**

Swanley Town Council is supporting the project to install a 20mph zone in Swanley Village. This will be paid for out of 'Community Infrastructure Levy' which is secured from developers when new homes are built, and this funding is coming from the Harrington's Nursery development at the bottom of Highlands Hill.

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](mailto: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**

**Swanley Village Home or 'Life' Group**

The new 'term' for the Swanley Village 'Life' Group is well underway and breaks for the summer holiday at the end of July. The group meets fortnightly on Thursday evenings at 7.45pm, normally at the 'Old Vicarage' but also in other homes in the village. 'Life' groups, based in various homes in the area, are to help the church achieve its objective of being at the very heart of our community. They not only 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 - 01322 614237 or 07836 376 803.



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

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



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**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](mailto: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 **Autumn** Newsletter, please contact the Editor:  
SwanleyVillageRA@outlook.com  
by **30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the latest.**

This newsletter is also published on the web site:  
**[www.swanleyvillage.uk](http://www.swanleyvillage.uk)**

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## **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)**

# COMMUNITY

# CAFÉ

**The Annexe, St Peter's Church,  
College Road, Hextable,  
BR8 7RH**



NEXT DOOR  
HEXTABLE



NextDoorHextable

Hot and cold drinks,  
snacks and lunches,  
cakes and pastries...

## OPENING HOURS

**Monday 9-3.30**

**Tuesday 9-3.30**

**Wednesday 9-3.30**

**Thursday 9-5**

**Friday 9-5**

**Saturday 9-3**

Pop Up events  
including...

Board Games Café

Cream Teas

Afternoon Teas

Follow us on social  
media for updates.

