

Summer 2025

# Inside Swale



# Your councillors

For more information about your local councillor visit [swale.gov.uk/your-council](https://swale.gov.uk/your-council)

 Conservative

 Green

 Labour

 Liberal Democrats

 Swale Independents Alliance

 Independent

 Reform UK

## Abbey

**Charles Gibson**   
charlesgibson@swale.gov.uk

**Hannah Perkin**   
hannahperkin@swale.gov.uk

## Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow

**Lloyd Chapman**   
lloydchapman@swale.gov.uk

**Roger Clark**   
rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

## Borden and Grove Park

**Mike Baldock**   
mikebaldock@swale.gov.uk

**Ann Cavanagh**   
anncavanagh@swale.gov.uk

## Boughton and Courtenay

**Alastair Gould**   
alastairgould@swale.gov.uk

**Rich Lehmann**   
richlehmann@swale.gov.uk


## Chalkwell

**Charlie Miller**   
charliemiller@swale.gov.uk

## East Downs

**Terry Thompson**   
terrythompson@swale.gov.uk

## Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch

**Chris Palmer**   
chrispalmer@swale.gov.uk

**Richard Palmer**   
richardpalmer@swale.gov.uk

## Homewood

**Simon Clark**   
simonclark@swale.gov.uk


**Shelley Cheesman**   
shelleycheesman@swale.gov.uk

## Kemsley

**Derek Carnell**   
derekcarnell@swale.gov.uk

**Ashley Wise**   
ashleywise@swale.gov.uk

## Milton Regis

**Kieran Mishchuk**   
kieranmishchuk@swale.gov.uk

**Tony Winckless**   
tonywinckless@swale.gov.uk

## Minster Cliffs

**Andy Booth**   
andybooth@swale.gov.uk

**Peter MacDonald**   
petermacdonald@swale.gov.uk

**Tom Nundy**   
tomnundy@swale.gov.uk

## Murston

**Carrie Pollard**   
carriepollard@swale.gov.uk

**Mark Last**   
marklast@swale.gov.uk

## Priory

**Alex Eyre**   
alexeyre@swale.gov.uk

## Queenborough and Halfway

**Ashley Shiel**   
ashleyshiel@swale.gov.uk

**Peter Marchington**   
petermarchington@swale.gov.uk

**Mike Whiting**   
mikewhiting@swale.gov.uk

## Roman

**Tim Gibson**   
timgibson@swale.gov.uk

**Karen Watson**   
karenwatson@swale.gov.uk

## Sheerness

**Hayden Brawn**   
haydenbrawn@swale.gov.uk

**Angela Harrison**   
angelaharrison@swale.gov.uk

**Dolley Wooster**   
dolleywooster@swale.gov.uk


## Sheppey Central

**Elliott Jayes**   
elliottjayes@swale.gov.uk

**Mark Tucker**   
marktucker@swale.gov.uk

**Pete Neal**   
peteneal@swale.gov.uk

## Sheppey East

**Lee-Anne Moore**   
lee-annemoore@swale.gov.uk

**Tara Noe**   
taranoe@swale.gov.uk

## St Ann's

**Carole Jackson**   
carolejackson@swale.gov.uk

**Kieran Golding**   
kierangolding@swale.gov.uk

## Teynham and Lynsted

**Lloyd Bowen**   
lloydbowen@swale.gov.uk

**Julien Speed**   
julien-speed@swale.gov.uk

## The Meads

**James Hunt**   
jameshunt@swale.gov.uk

## Watling

**Ben J Martin**   
benmartin@swale.gov.uk

**Claire Martin**   
clairemartin@swale.gov.uk

## West Downs

**Monique Bonney**   
moniquebonney@swale.gov.uk

## Woodstock

**Paul Stephen**   
paulstephen@swale.gov.uk

**Sarah Stephen**   
sarahstephen@swale.gov.uk



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**Stay up to date with the latest news with our newsletter. Sign-up now and get the latest news straight to your inbox, just head to [swale.gov.uk/news-signup](https://swale.gov.uk/news-signup)**

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Hello and welcome to the summer edition of your Inside Swale magazine!

There is lots to look forward to this summer and I really want all of you to take the opportunity to explore and enjoy the whole of our borough and its hidden gems.

We've recently introduced smoke-free zones in some of our public spaces to help create cleaner, healthier areas for everyone to enjoy, especially families with young children. We're also seeing real progress thanks to our Community Infrastructure Grant, with new accessible paths at Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway, and ongoing improvements to the Sheppey Greenway, making it easier to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

On the outdoor theme, our award winning Sheppey beaches are a great place to unwind. However, I would add a quick reminder to stay safe and alert near the water, look out for others, and please take your litter home.

For those who prefer countryside pursuits, why not enjoy a visit to our excellent multi-award-winning Milton Country Park in Sittingbourne, or the Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park in Faversham.

Moving on, elsewhere in this issue, you'll find updates on the Sheerness Revival project, Local Government Reorganisation, handy recycling tips, and how to get the best from your food waste bin. We also welcome Swale's new Mayor and Deputy Mayor, celebrating our Civic Award winners, and highlighting ways you can support good causes through our Community Lottery.

In anticipation of warmer summer weather ahead, please also remember to check in on your elderly neighbours, vulnerable residents and of course, keep pets cool and hydrated. However you choose to spend your summer, stay safe, have fun and enjoy all that Swale has to offer.

*Tim Gibson*

Cllr Tim Gibson,  
Leader of Swale Borough Council

## Smoke free zones in Swale

Smoke free signs have been going up across Swale where local people don't want to breathe in second-hand smoke and vape fumes.

We asked you where smoke free signs should be installed and the most popular options included at primary school gates, children's play areas and outside of healthcare facilities.

As a result of your feedback, 25 signs have now been installed near hospitals such as the Sheppey Community Hospital, within green spaces and play areas like Faversham Rec, and at the entrances to leisure centres including Swallows Leisure Centre.

These signs are part of our campaign with Kent County Council to deliver smoke free public spaces across Swale, with the aim to reduce second-hand smoke exposure and educate smokers about the harm caused to both them and those around them.

To find out more about smoke free zones visit [kent.gov.uk/smokefree](https://kent.gov.uk/smokefree)

## Improvements for Heather House Community Hub

Heather House Community Hub will be able to offer more support to the local community after upgrades worth just under £30,000 are completed.

The hub in Sittingbourne provides a base for four vital local charities and secured funding to improve its facilities through our Community Infrastructure Grant, which was possible thanks to Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

SATEDA, Swale Community Care Project, Sittingbourne and Sheppey Helping Ukraine and Age UK Kent Rivers have each received grants to invest in essential improvements within the hub.

Domestic abuse charity SATEDA received £9,707 to establish a new branch.

This included furnishing the space, installing CCTV, a new door entry system, Wi-Fi, and storage.

SATEDA empowers women affected by domestic abuse through support, advocacy and education.

Swale Community Care Project received £9,750 to purchase hearing aid equipment for supporting greater accessibility, a public access defibrillator, air conditioning, and to upgrade the function room with electrical improvements and presentation equipment.

Age UK Kent Rivers received £10,000 to install new baby changing facilities, robust main entrance doors, a modern door entry system, energy-efficient LED lighting, and improved signage.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey Helping Ukraine will use their £2,838 grant to help upgrade the consultation and event room, purchase a hybrid meeting camera, and lockers.

The charity supports Ukrainian nationals living in the UK.

The total improvements, amounting to £32,295, will benefit all charities operating within the hub, fostering collaboration and enhancing their ability to deliver vital services.





## All-aboard for SKLR!

It will be easier than ever to enjoy a trip on the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway (SKLR).

Thanks to funding from Government's UKSPF, through our Community Infrastructure Grant, a wheelchair-accessible path and railings from the ticket office up to the platform at Sittingbourne Viaduct Station have been installed.

The path is just one part of improvements being made embarking and disembarking the trains and the project will also include general

enhancements to the surrounding area, making the trip to the railway more pleasant for families and those with disabilities.

The heritage railway, which is operated by volunteers, runs original steam trains along part of the old Bowaters Paper Railway line, which was built in 1905.

The line played a vital role in Sittingbourne's industrial past, transporting paper and raw materials between Sittingbourne and Ridham Dock.

## Sheppey greenway getting back on track

A local community group has created an all-weather path along a portion of the Sheppey Light Railway line thanks to support from Government's UKSPF, through our Community Infrastructure Grant.

The Sheppey Light Railway Greenway is an ambitious project to open a walking, wheeling and cycling greenway following the path of the former railway line that ran from Leysdown to Queenborough.

The volunteer-led project is aiming to reopen as much of the old route as possible to create a safe way to cross the island on your own steam – on foot or by bike.

More than 20 volunteers and local businesses banded together to install the all-weather surface on the portion of council-owned track bed between Drove Road and the pedestrian link to Buddle Drive.

The first stage of the project was completed in 2023 when volunteers cleared and widened the path from Scrapsgate to the Sheerness Golf Club.

They then cleared a thick forest of brambles which had made the next portion of the railway's path inaccessible and have now installed a fence along this section to improve the safety of the route. Our grounds maintenance contractor, Blenwood assisted the Sheppey Greenway clearances as part of the social value commitment in their contract with the council.

The group have now raised an additional £6,000 to fund a detailed route plan across the island which is now being drafted and will help outline the future layout and direction of the project.



# Awards for Sheppey's beaches

Swale's three bathing beaches have been named amongst the best in the country with the announcement of this year's Blue Flag and Seaside Awards.

Sheerness beach will once again be flying the international Blue Flag Award this year which is widely considered to be the gold standard for beaches.

It is one of the beaches that meets the very highest standards for cleanliness, facilities and water quality and has also been awarded Keep Britain Tidy's Seaside Award.

Leysdown and Minster Leas beaches also received the Seaside Award, which recognises and celebrates the best beaches in the country.

This award measured their safety and services, the environmental information available, water quality and their litter and waste management.

To find out more about local beaches, visit [swale.gov.uk/seafront](https://swale.gov.uk/seafront)

RNLI lifeguards will also continue to keep people safe on Swale's bathing beaches after councillors agreed a new contract.

The service, which has operated since 2012, sees qualified lifeguards patrolling Leysdown and Sheerness beaches on weekends and bank holidays from May, and seven days a week during summer (July to September).

They monitor sea conditions, set up the appropriate flags, monitor visitors to the beach, offer safety advice and are equipped with the best training and equipment.

We also want to remind beachgoers that just because lifeguards are present it doesn't mean people should act recklessly, please keep yourself and others safe.







## Disposable BBQs and public spaces

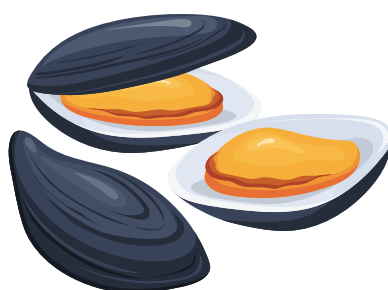
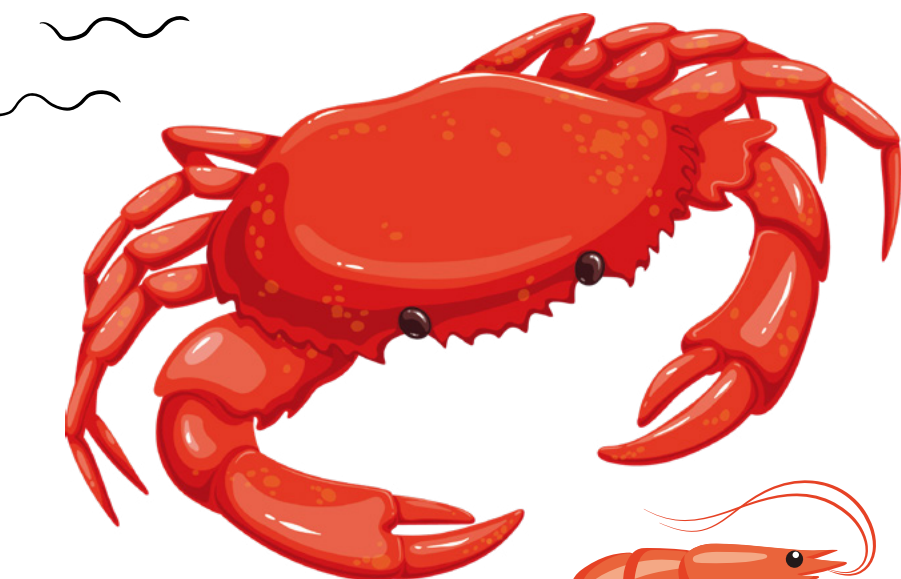
With the warmer weather making its appearance now that summer has arrived, it can be tempting to head to the park or beach for a barbeque with friends and family. But not only do disposable barbeques pose a significant fire risk, it's also not permitted under our byelaws to use them in our public spaces.

Disposable barbecues retain heat for a considerable time after use, and the hot ashes can easily ignite surrounding areas, leading to bin fires or even larger blazes particularly in hot, dry conditions like those that we have been seeing recently. They also pose a significant risk of injury.

## Shellfish harvesting

We want to remind everyone about the rules around harvesting shellfish along our coastline.

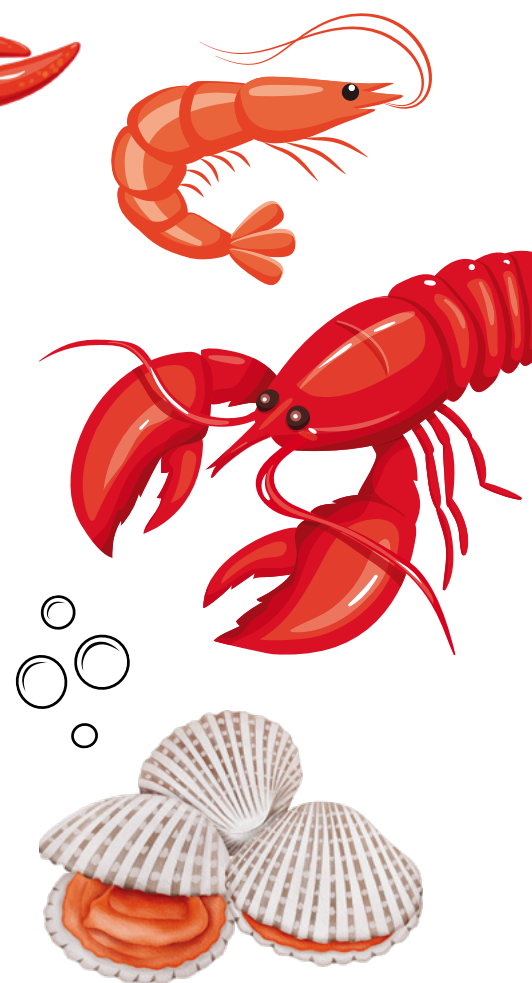
We've seen an increase in the amount of shellfish harvesting taking place on the Isle of Sheppey coast in recent years.



## Anyone planning to collect shellfish, should remember to:

- collect only for your own personal consumption (up to 5kg)
- do not offer shellfish in exchange for money, products, or services
- leave smaller shellfish to grow and reproduce
- do not gather shellfish from SSSIs
- stay safe, be aware of the tides and weather

People are allowed to collect 5kg of oysters, cockles, mussels, and clams for their personal use, but doing so can come with risks.



These types of shellfish can hold onto toxins and bacteria from the sea, and eating contaminated flesh can result in serious illness.

Over harvesting can also have a detrimental impact on Swale's shellfish beds and can cause irreparable damage to these delicate ecosystems.



We've worked with charities and organisations to help more than 3,500 people with cost of living and wellbeing support and thanks to the Household Support Fund we have been able to extend this support for another year.

Following the success of last year's One Swale Roadshows we have organised a new roadshow every month for the remainder of 2025.

Support is available on a wide range of issues from financial hardship - providing things like vouchers, warm packs and bill discounts - employment and training opportunities to health and wellbeing.

This includes practical support such as food and fuel vouchers, water bill reductions and health check-ups, and offered advice on issues such as home safety, energy use, health and debt.

These events have been made possible thanks to the hard work of the Swale CVS and Faversham Community Networking Group who helped the council organise the roadshows, and funding from the UK Government.

**The full schedule is still being confirmed but some of the upcoming of roadshows include:**

- **July**  
(Sheerness)  
Sheppey Gateway  
Thursday 24 July
- **September**  
(Faversham)  
Salvation Army  
Tuesday 9 September

**Keep an eye on our social media for further roadshow dates.**



**Cllr Hannah Perkin**, chair of the housing, health and communities committee, said:

"Our monthly roadshows help people with things like health concerns and the cost of living crisis, and all of this and much more will be available at these events.

"If you need some support or advice please come down to our roadshows, where we and our amazing partner organisations will be on hand to offer the support you need."and ready to help!"





## Sign up to our community lottery and help support local good causes



**SWALE  
COMMUNITY  
LOTTERY**



The Swale Community Lottery gives people the chance to support their favourite local charities and non-profit organisations financially, while having the chance to win cash prizes each week. The lottery has also introduced a new monthly Super Draw.

The 40 charities, voluntary organisations and other not-for-profit groups of all shapes and sizes who have signed up to the lottery receive 50% of the proceeds from tickets they sell.

A further 10% from every ticket sale goes into a central fund which will be shared among other good causes through grants. The remainder goes towards prize funds and operating costs.

Thanks to the amazing support from residents, the charities that signed up to benefit from the lottery receive a monthly cash boost throughout the year.

And if this support continues, the lottery is set to raise a staggering £12,000 for local good causes in its first year.

The regular draws take place every week, and as well as the £25,000 jackpot, people could win prizes of £2,000, £250, £25 or more tickets.

Super draws take place on the last Saturday of each month, and you can buy extra tickets to “top-up” for super draw week – or if you don’t want weekly tickets, you can buy tickets just for the super draw.

Tickets for the lottery are available to buy from [swalecommunitylottery.co.uk](https://swalecommunitylottery.co.uk) and cost just £1.

### The local good causes people can choose to support so far are:

- Age UK Kent Rivers
- Age UK Sheppey
- Avenue Community Theatre
- Bounce DMT & Trampoline Club
- Castle Connections Community Centre
- Citizens Advice Swale
- Communication hub. Song signing
- EKC Sheppey Secondary School
- Ellie's Angels
- Faversham Assistance Centre (FACE)
- Friendly Faces of Kent
- Halfway Badminton Club
- Heather House Community Café
- Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne / Heritage Hub
- Imago Community
- Infinity Age UK Sheppey
- Isle of Sheppey Sailing Club
- Launch It (Kent)
- Milton Creek Country Park Trust
- Minster (Sheppey) Cricket Club
- MS Swale
- New Leaf Support - Domestic Abuse Service
- NexYouth CIC
- Nurture For All CIC
- SATEDA
- Sheerness Town Team
- Sheppey Matters
- Sheppey Miniature Engineering And Model Society
- Sittingbourne Community Radio (106.9 SFM)
- Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society
- Swale Community & Voluntary Services (Swale CVS)
- Swale Community Lottery Central Fund
- Swale Pride
- Teynham Village Hall
- The Autism Apprentice CIC
- The Fenner Frost Foundation
- The Freedom Centre
- The Hope Street Centre
- The Sheppey Hall Trust
- Vibe Community

**Players must be 18 or over.**

**Always play responsibly, if you need to talk to someone about your gambling, please contact Gamble Aware.**

# HOLLIS HEATING

Family run business for over 50 years

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**Sittingbourne**

**01795 473170**

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**Boiler installations starting from**

**£1850 inc VAT**

**10 years parts and labour  
warranty on selected boilers**





# New Mayor and deputy Mayor of Swale

**Cllr Karen Watson,**  
Mayor  
of Swale



**Cllr Derek Carnell**  
Deputy  
Mayor  
of Swale



The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Swale for the next civic year were appointed at the annual council meeting on 14 May.

Councillors elected Cllr Karen Watson as Mayor and Cllr Derek Carnell as Deputy Mayor.

During the Mayor making process Cllr Ben Martin, the retiring Mayor, removed his badge of office and the Sergeant at Mace placed the chains of office onto the new Mayor.

Cllr Watson announced SATEDA and Cancer Research UK as the mayor's charities that will receive the funds raised from the mayoral events throughout the civic year.

The mayor also named their cadet; Corporal Cissy Hayes, who attends Sheppey Squadron Air Cadets.

**Cllr Karen Watson,**  
Mayor of Swale, said:

"I hope this mayoral year will be one of respect for others, community unity, hope, tolerance and joy, and I will do everything within my power to share and promote these values.

"You have my word that I will serve this council and our residents with all my heart and soul, and I look forward to learning a lot more about the wonderful borough of Swale.

"I have chosen two charities that are very close to my heart - SATEDA and Cancer Research UK – who both do such incredible work for our community.

"I would like to thank Ben for his work over the past year and for being a great example of all that the Mayor of Swale can be."

**Cllr Ben Martin,** the retiring mayor, said:

"It has been an honour to serve the people of Swale this year, and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as mayor.

"Karen has been a fantastic deputy mayor throughout my time as mayor, and I am confident she will be an excellent Mayor of Swale.

"Thank you to everyone who helped make my year as mayor such a success - to everyone who helped me put on events to fundraise for my charities, and, of course, to all the residents who supported them.

"Just a few highlights include the mayor's cycle for charity across Europe, the first Swale women's team rugby match and being able to award our local heroes at the Civic Awards."

You can ask the Mayor of Swale to represent the council at events including the opening of new buildings and fetes. To find out how to invite the mayor to events, visit [swale.gov.uk/your-council/the-mayors-office](https://swale.gov.uk/your-council/the-mayors-office)

# SUMMER EVENTS



**DANSPIRATION  
PRESENTS A NIGHT AT  
THE MOVIES**

**AVENUE THEATRE,  
SITTINGBOURNE**

**SATURDAY 26 JULY,  
11AM AND 6PM**

Danspiration presents a night at the movies where some of your favourite movies are performed by all the wonderful Danspiration pupils. Tickets are £10 each and can be booked through the Avenue Theatre website, [avenuetheatre.co.uk](http://avenuetheatre.co.uk), or by calling the box office on 01795 471140.



**FALCONRY DISPLAYS AT  
BELMONT HOUSE AND  
GARDENS**

**BELMONT HOUSE,  
FAVERSHAM**

**THURSDAY 31 JULY**

Joe and the team will be flying a variety of birds on the front lawn of Belmont House and gardens. From seeing Hopper the vulture soar above the parkland, to delving into the depths of their intelligent Caracaras from the Falkland Islands, or maybe experiencing the high speeds of a falcon swooping by your side. And don't forget meeting their wonderful burrowing owls. Shows will be taking place on the front lawn at 12.30pm and at 2.30pm.

Falconry shows are included within all admission types to Belmont House and Gardens. For more information head to the events page at [belmont-house.org](http://belmont-house.org)

*Looking  
for some  
fun things  
to do in  
Swale for  
over the  
summer?*

Take a look at  
some of these  
events taking  
place across the  
borough:

**FAMILY JAM-BOREE DAY**

**FRONT BRENTS,  
FAVERSHAM**

**TUESDAY 5 AUGUST,  
10AM - 2PM**

Summer holiday family fun at this Family Jam-Boree day organised by Faversham Town Council. The event includes children's entertainment, face painting, arts and crafts, food and refreshments and fun activities for the whole family.



# IN SWALE



## QUIZ NIGHT HOSTED BY THE QUIZ PEOPLE

**THE LIGHT,  
SITTINGBOURNE**

**TUESDAY 5 AUGUST  
(AND EVERY TUESDAY  
NIGHT)**

Just £3 per person and plenty of prizes to be won. No need to book, just turn up and claim your victory! Starts at 8pm every Tuesday evening.

## TODDLER PLAY

**THE LIGHT,  
SITTINGBOURNE**

**WEDNESDAY 6  
AUGUST (AND EVERY  
WEDNESDAY)**

After Wednesday's Toddler Time films at the Light cinema, head to the cosy sofa area and join in the fun and educational play with the little ones.

Toys are available in the screens for them to play with during the films too. For more information, head to [sittingbourne.thelight.co.uk/whatson](http://sittingbourne.thelight.co.uk/whatson)

## SCORPION AND CREEPY CRAWLIES DAY WITH FILM

**THE CRITERION, BLUE  
TOWN**

**TUESDAY 12 AUGUST,  
11AM**

Join the team at The Criterion in Blue Town and meet some creepy crawlies, and follow it up with a themed film! Tickets are £5 per child, for more information and to book visit [thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/tours-activities](http://thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/tours-activities)

## PIRATE PICNIC, TREASURE HUNT AND FILM

**THE CRITERION, BLUE  
TOWN**

**THURSDAY 14 AUGUST,  
11AM**

Join the pirate fun by following the treasure map to find the prize! Then join your fellow pirates for a picnic lunch and finish off the fun by watching Muppets Treasure Island. Tickets are £10 per child, for more information and to book visit [thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/tours-activities](http://thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/tours-activities)

## FAVERSHAM HOP FESTIVAL 2025

**FAVERSHAM**

**SATURDAY 30 –  
SUNDAY 31 AUGUST**

There's no other way to finish off the summer than with the Faversham Hop Festival! The official Faversham Hop Festival covers the area of Preston Street, West Street, East Street and the central car park and runs a festival camping village and parking facility at the Abbey School.

For festival run stages for live music, head to Preston Street, the Market Place, West Street and the central car park alongside the children's area and food court. The official festival runs from 10am to approximately 5.30pm.

Follow the latest developments about Faversham Hop Festival on their Facebook page. Or for more information, visit [favershamhopfestival.org](http://favershamhopfestival.org)

All of these events, and many more things to do can be found on the Visit Swale website [visit-swale.co.uk](http://visit-swale.co.uk)







Funded by  
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## Sheerness Revival

Exciting things are  
happening in Sheerness!

SR↑

### Beachfields

Planning permission was received in January allowing for works to start on the site.

Adventure Golf, which input from residents and local students, started works in April and the aim is that it will be completed in time for the summer holidays. Local students who took part in the design works have been invited to take the first putt.

Internal works at the healthy living centre have begun following the groundbreaking event that took place in May.

### Masters House

Works on the garages at Masters House have now officially begun. The garages will be managed by charity Launch It, which offers space for young entrepreneurs looking to start their own businesses with support and guidance from the hub manager.







## Sheppey College Extension

Things have been moving at pace over at the college. The steel frame of the EKC Sheppey College extension has been completed, and installation of the precast concrete planks is complete as well. The staircase is also in place, allowing you to walk through and experience the structure of the building from within it.

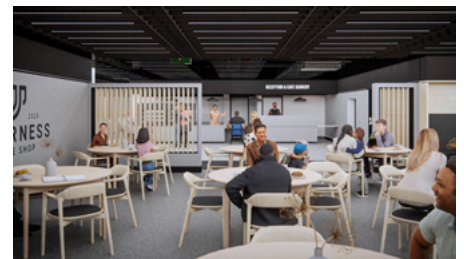


Works are now taking place on making the building water tight to allow for internal works to begin.

The aim is for the works to be completed in November 2025, with the new extension a wider range of opportunities for learners aged 16-19, alongside a brand-new junior college provision for students aged 14-16. From the start of the upcoming academic year, the new building will house specialist programmes including Level 2 Engineering, as well as Level 2 and Level 3 Creative Media.

## And just like that, all three projects are in construction phase!

With Adventure Golf coming forward in July, Masters House welcoming the island's next creative business ventures and Sheppey College opening its expanded doors to new students in November, there is so much more to come. We will keep you posted.



Don't forget you can find out more information regarding all 3 projects by visiting our dedicated website: [sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk](https://sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk)

Or the Sheerness Revival facebook page.

You can also sign up to receive regular updates via our newsletter [sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk/latest-news](https://sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk/latest-news)



# EKC Sheppey Secondary

## A YEAR TO BE PROUD OF!

FOLLOW OUR STORY:  
[EKCSHEPPEYSECONDARY.ORG](https://EKCSHEPPEYSECONDARY.ORG) & 

A year ago, we opened our doors with a clear promise: to raise the bar for education on the Isle of Sheppey. Today, we're proud to say - we're doing just that.

We've built a calm, focused, and ambitious school where students are cared for and challenged to be their best selves.

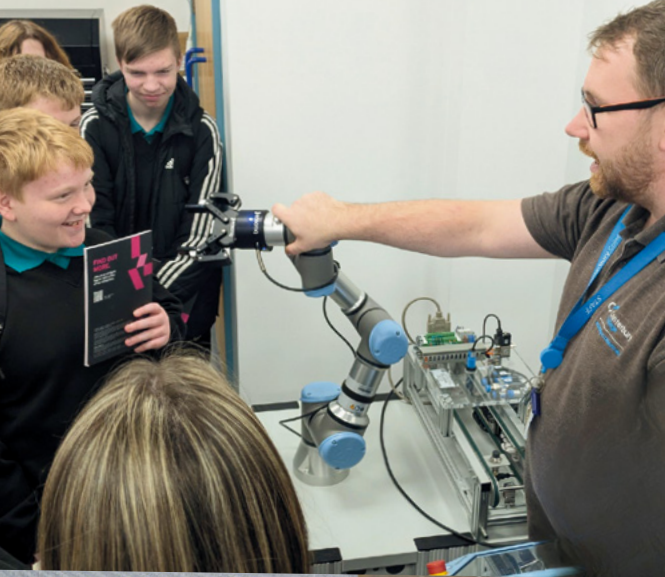
"We've built a culture where every child feels they belong; that's the foundation for everything else - academic success, personal growth, and future ambition."

January Lorman, Headteacher

Our students have spent the year exploring new ideas, developing new skills, and excelling in everything from their learning to competitive sports to an engineering prize, an art exhibition, and community volunteering. They're walking in with confidence, high aspirations and are absolutely determined to become the best of our future leaders.







And in celebrating our first year and all the many achievements...

- High attendance we can be proud of!
- Numerous trophies and accolades, from sports to the Amey Engineering Cup;
- And heartwarming feedback from students, staff, families, and the wider community, celebrating our school's incredible transformation.

.... We would like to say a big thank you to you!

To our students, thank you for your hard work and enthusiasm and for bringing our school to life with your unique talents. You are the heart of everything we do.

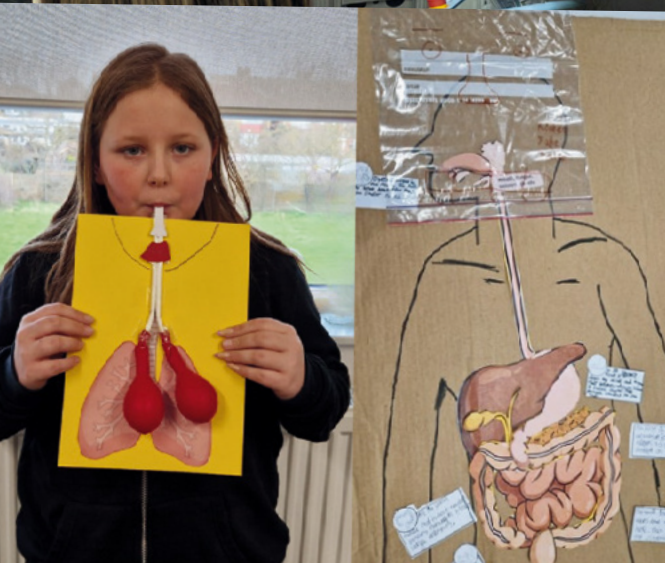
To every parent and carer reading this, we know how important it is to feel confident in your child's school. We've heard from many of you this year who've told us the same thing: "My child is happier here." That means everything to us. We've worked hard to build strong relationships through regular updates, open conversations, and events that bring us together. We want you to feel part of your child's journey every step of the way. As one parent shared, "My child is being pushed to do their best - and they're proud of it. So am I!"

And to the community, thank you for your trust and support! Our community partners: Sheppey United FC, Southeastern and Kent Community Rail Partnership, Morrisons - Isle of Sheppey, Colin Ayers and the team at Chiquita, Age UK, our Island Primaries, and, of course, the East Kent Colleges Group - your collaboration has been invaluable.

We look forward to continuing to build on this incredible first year together.

**THANK YOU!**

**Here's to another fantastic year!  
Here's to EKC Sheppey Secondary!**

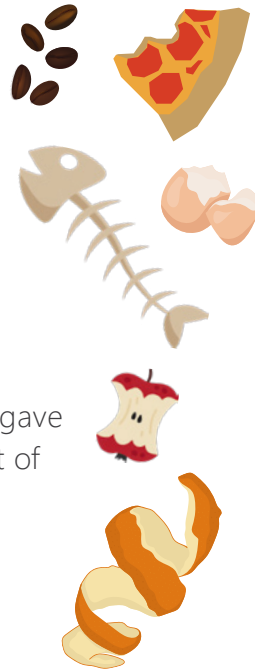


# MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR FOOD WASTE BINS

We've been supporting a campaign to encourage residents to use their food waste bins.

To help, alongside stickers on refuse bins we also gave residents a leaflet all about how to make the most of your food bin and some free food caddy liners.


## LITTLE CHANGES ADD UP TO A BIG IMPACT!




## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY FOOD WASTE?

It's easy to use and helps reduce what goes in your general waste, there's no amount too little to get started, so make sure you feed your caddy:

 Peelings

 Scrapings from your plate

 Uneaten out of date items

 Bones

You can check out what happens to your food waste by using the QR code:

## HAVE YOU GOT YOURS YET?

You can order your free food waste bin and kitchen caddy online at [swale.gov.uk/oab](https://swale.gov.uk/oab) or by calling 01795 417888



## IN YOUR FOOD WASTE BIN

### YES PLEASE

All uneaten food and plate scrapings

Mouldy or out of date food (including ready meals removed from their packaging)

Peelings

Tea bags and coffee grounds

Bread and pastries

Dairy products (including egg shells)

Rice, pasta and beans

Meat, fish and bones (raw and cooked)

### NO THANK YOU

Packaging of any kind

Liquids such as milk

Oil or liquid fat

Any material that is not food waste







# **DON'T LET GARDENING BE A PAIN IN THE GRASS!**

**Get your garden ready for spring with the help of a garden waste bin!**  
Now is a great time to get yourself a garden waste bin to take care of those trimmings and grass cuttings.

**FOR £62 A YEAR YOUR GARDEN WASTE BIN  
WILL BE COLLECTED UP TO 25 TIMES A YEAR,  
SAVING YOU THE TIME AND A TRIP TO THE TIP.**

To sign up for a garden waste bin,  
visit [swale.gov.uk/garden-waste](https://swale.gov.uk/garden-waste) or call 01795 417888



# ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE RECYCLING RIGHT?



Did you know that not everything that can be recycled can be collected in your blue recycling bin at kerbside? This is because the recycling facility can only process certain items. We know it is sometimes confusing to know what can and can't be disposed of in your blue recycling bin. We have a handy online tool to help you understand what we can collect as a household recycling collection. This can be found at [swale.gov.uk/what-goes-in-my-bin](https://swale.gov.uk/what-goes-in-my-bin) or by using the QR code below:



Household items that can currently be recycled in your blue bin are food & drink cans, mixed paper and cardboard, plastic bottles pots and trays, mixed glass, aluminum foils & trays, and empty aerosols.

Putting the wrong items in the recycling bins can contaminate whole lorry loads. This increases costs and causes delays. The main offending items are



**Nappies/  
sanitary items**



**Wood**



**Black  
sacks**



**Batteries**



**Textiles/  
clothes**



**Electrical  
appliances**



**Disposable  
vapes**



**Food**



**Clinical  
waste**



**Gas  
canisters**



Please do not put any of these contaminants in your recycling bins and bags. If a bin contains these items we will not be able to empty the bin until the items are removed.

There are a number of informative videos online that show the whole recycling process, you can watch these videos by using the QR code:



## SIGN UP TO GET THE LATEST NEWS



Want to know more about what is going on around Swale on a more regular basis?

We launched a new email bulletin where you can keep up to date with the latest news from the council.

We'll let you know what's going on in Swale, where you can sign up for grants and funding, and links to how to access council services online.

You can sign up for updates at [swale.gov.uk/news-signup](https://swale.gov.uk/news-signup)

You can also sign up for email updates on the Sheerness Revival project at [sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk](https://sheernessrevival.swale.gov.uk) and business bulletins from [swalemeansbusiness.co.uk](https://swalemeansbusiness.co.uk)

**Want reminders of what bin you need to put out?** We will soon be launching email reminders that let you know what bin you need to put out for the following morning. Keep an eye on our social media for how you can sign up to these alerts.

## Community heroes awarded



Swale's community heroes were recognised and celebrated at this year's Civic Award ceremony.

Every year we ask the public to nominate residents who work tirelessly to better their communities, with the mayor and judging panel honouring them with awards.

Steven Pullen and Jordan Chan for their work on Swale Pride, Kelly Kay for bringing back Sittingbourne Carnival and Michelle Henneker for her work at Heather House and support for Ukrainian refugees were awarded the **Civic Award** which commends their efforts to make Swale a better place.

In addition to the Civic Awards, the **Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award** which recognises a person's lifelong commitment to helping others was presented to Andrew Redman, for 40 years service as a coastguard rescue volunteer.

Ross Elderfield, Claire Ives, Finn Tumber, Lorraine March and Rebecca Breiner have also all been given the Highly Commended Award, thanking and recognising them for their selfless community work.

The mayor awarded the very special **Award for Quick Thinking, Speedy Action and Bravery** to three young local heroes, who's quick thinking saved a man from drowning at the Minster Leas Beach. He also presented a certificate of thanks to Event Volunteers of Swale for their management and marshalling of local public events.

Lastly, the mayor gave out the **Mayor's Special Award** to Tracy Marsh the volunteer co-ordinator for local domestic abuse charity, Sateda, who the mayor fundraised for throughout the year.



**Cllr Ben Martin**, who presented the awards as Mayor before his Mayoral Term ended, said:

"It has been a true honour to be able to help celebrate the outstanding achievements and dedication of some truly exceptional individuals within Swale.

"A big congratulations to everyone who won an award, and thank you to everyone who nominated someone, and to those who didn't get awards - it was amazing to see all the great work around the borough.



You can find out more about the award winners at [news.swale.gov.uk/news/local-heroes-awarded2](https://news.swale.gov.uk/news/local-heroes-awarded2)





# Swale Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

### June 2025

Following Government's announcement about local government reorganisation, Kent and Medway councils have jointly responded to develop a local government reorganisation proposal for the area.

An initial business case was submitted in March 2025 which included a number of different geographic model options. All of these options would still need further work and more evidence gathering. Based on this there has been initial feedback from Government, as a check-in point rather than a decision in terms of which model Kent adopts.

The comments from Government included the key information needed to be included in the final submission. It also recognised that Kent, as a major entry point to the UK, brings its own unique challenges which will need to be considered, along with the impact of any model on key services such as adult and children social care; children with special education needs and disabilities; homelessness and public safety.

The final submission needs to be made to Government by 28 November, detailing the proposed unitary models, along with the evidence and justification for that proposal. We will be able to submit our preferred option, which may be different to other councils' views. Councillors will then be asked to agree this at a Full Council meeting in November.

There is a lot of work to do before November, and the councils across Kent and Medway are working to appoint a strategic partner to help prepare the final submission. We will be heavily involved with this process and will be working with internal teams and our key external partners to ensure that our local context and risks are effectively captured.



# Cycle- re-Cycle donation point



It is now easier than ever to donate to the Swale Cycle-re-Cycle scheme and give the gift of affordable transport, while helping prisoners through their rehabilitation journey.

Our scheme sees HMP Swaleside inmates refurbish unwanted bicycles - upskilling themselves and taking positive steps towards rehabilitation - whilst saving bikes from the tip.

The scheme also provides Swale residents with affordable, environmentally friendly transportation, that helps them keep active and healthy.

We've opened a new donation point for people to drop-off their unwanted bicycles, making donating to the scheme more accessible across the borough.

There is now a donation point at the Faversham Household Waste Recycling Centre, in addition to the one already open at the Sheerness Household Waste Recycling centre.

More than three hundred bikes have been refurbished and sold on through local community groups for just £10 each, making the scheme self-funding and sustainable.

We funded the initial supply of bike parts and workshop consumables, while Canterbury Bike Project trained an instructor to deliver the City & Guilds qualification at the prison.



***If you have a roadworthy bike – two wheels and two brakes - you'd like to donate, drop it off at one of the donation points, along with new or good condition used parts.***





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PICKUP POINTS



NO HIDDEN  
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5 STAR RATING

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