

Winter 2021

# Inside Swale

**Tips for  
recycling this  
Christmas**



**What's on this  
Christmas**



**Get involved  
with national  
tree week**





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**SWALE**  
COMMUNITY LEISURE

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Swale Borough Council  
Swale House, East Street  
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT

[swale.gov.uk](http://swale.gov.uk)

[csc@swale.gov.uk](mailto:csc@swale.gov.uk)

01795 417850

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## Welcome

Yuletide greetings to everyone.

As we approach that time in the year's turning when the nights are long and the days are short, the winter solstice reminds us that even in the darkest times there is always light on the horizon.

As we look back over another year coping with the brunt of a mass pandemic, and mourning those who have passed over, we must also look to the future and make preparations for the times ahead. As a council we too are taking stock and looking at how we adjust to the long term consequences of the past two years.

Helping local people, communities and businesses to rebuild after all the uncertainties of the past couple of years, and to learn how to manage the impact of long-covid, the implications of which are only just starting to emerge and yet which may be with us for decades to come.

And out of this chaos we can build on the positives, the strong sense of community that has sprung back across the nation and across our borough. The realisation that where we live is important and the people around us are the ones we most need at times of crisis. We have also seen just how important our local environment and our local services are. When Spain is off limits but our local parks and woodlands are still there for us. When travel to London is made harder, but our local pubs and cafes are still open and ready to serve us. When large events are cancelled but local shows and community festivals still provide some light relief.

As the wheel of the year turns, and the light starts to come back, there is so much locally to be proud of, to enjoy and to support. As your local council we are all committed to making sure we do everything we can to protect and promote our environment, to support our communities and our businesses and to make sure 2022 is a year to celebrate.

Bright blessings

**Cllr Mike Baldock**



# Help save lives in your community with defibrillator grants

Local community groups can now apply for funding to help towards buying and installing a public access defibrillator.

We've made £20,250 available to encourage the installation of a public access defibrillators at village halls and community centres around Swale.

Local community groups can apply for up to £750 towards the cost of purchasing and installing the equipment that can help save someone's life.

Public access defibrillators must be located in places fully accessible to the public 24/7. Applicants would also need to appoint a nominated person to maintain them.

All defibrillators must be purchased and installed by the end of March 2022.



**Cllr Mike Baldock**, cabinet member for planning at the council, said:

"We're making £20,250 available to support lifesaving equipment at village halls and community centres around Swale.

"Community groups and local organisations can apply for up to £750 to go towards the cost of purchasing and installing a public access defibrillator and housing cabinet.

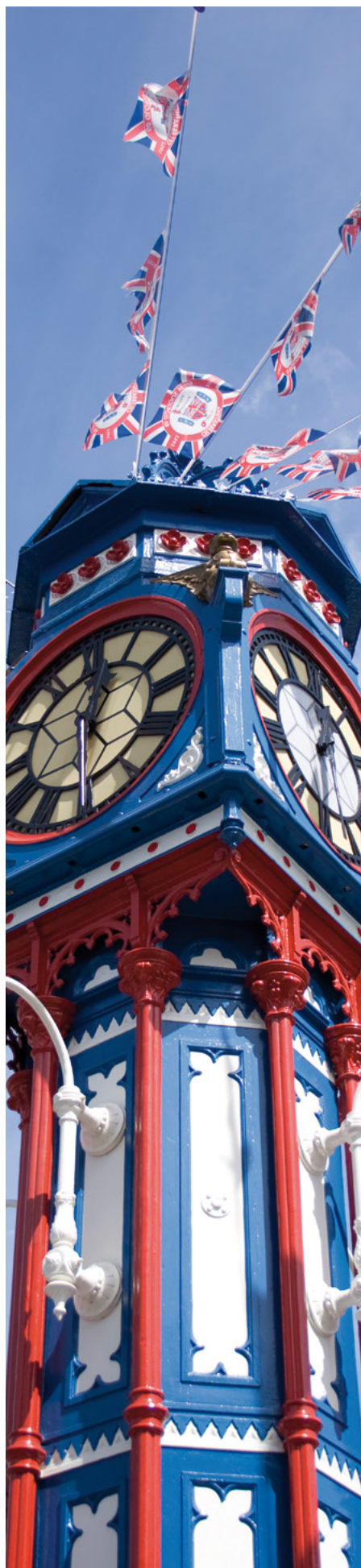
"Defibrillators can provide lifesaving support to people in cardiac arrest. For every minute someone is in cardiac arrest without CPR and access to a defibrillator, their chances of survival drop by up to 10 per cent.

"With ambulance response times increasing, having a publicly accessible defibrillator nearby can mean the difference between life and death for someone in cardiac arrest.

"The grant scheme is now open, and I encourage any local group with a community building to see if you're eligible."

To find out more, or to see if your community group is eligible to apply visit:  
[swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/grants-and-funding/defibrillator-grants](https://swale.gov.uk/news-and-your-council/grants-and-funding/defibrillator-grants)





# Sheerness Clock Tower restoration underway

Work is well underway on the full restoration of the 119-year-old Sheerness Coronation Memorial Clock. The restoration, funded by Swale council, will bring the clock and tower back to its former glory, in its original colours of green and gold and with the fabrication of new lanterns to match those originally installed in 1902.

The clock tower was dismantled over three days in September with scaffolding being erected and the clockmakers beginning the delicate task of loosening those 119-year-old bolts.



The clocktower finial and bell were carefully lowered to the ground, housing the Sheerness clocktower bell, weighing around 100kg and cast by John Taylor & Co. of Loughborough. The clock mechanism was then removed, and the clock faces loosened from the tower and lowered to the ground.

With the Broadway closed, the work began to crane on the four pieces of the clock and tower onto the vehicles responsible for transporting the clock tower north to the workshop of clockmakers Smith of Derby.

You can watch a time lapse video of the dismantling of the clock tower on the Visit Swale website: [visit-swale.co.uk/visit-swale-blog/sheerness-clocktower-removal-update-time-lapse-video](http://visit-swale.co.uk/visit-swale-blog/sheerness-clocktower-removal-update-time-lapse-video)

Timber hoarding has been installed around the clocktower site with historic images of the clocktower, alongside information on its history and the restoration project.

The graphics include a timeline highlighting the key dates for the clocktower, alongside a QR code linking you to blogs on the Visit Swale website for the most up to date information on its restoration.

Work on the restoration of the Sheerness Clocktower is underway in Derby.

The clocktower has been broken down into its original component parts, as it would have arrived in Sheerness nearly 120 years ago.

The parts can be seen here in the images, having been palletised by the team ready to be bead blasted, prior to its zinc coating.





# Swale's stray dog service and contingency planning are top of the pack

Our commitment to animal welfare has again been recognised by the RSPCA (England & Wales), with Gold Pawprint Awards for our stray dogs and contingency planning services.

The Swale Borough Council Stray Dog Service picked up its 12th Gold Pawprint in a row from The RSPCA in recognition of its good practice in animal welfare.

The award for contingency planning is the fifth consecutive time we've picked up the award in recognition of the work done to protect animal welfare in the event of an emergency.

We also provide information to help animal-based businesses be prepared to look after their animals in the event of an emergency.

### Prepare for your pets

If you have pets, it's a good idea to have an emergency plan in place for them.

The plans include having a handy kit ready for your pet so that you can grab it and go:

- Pet carrier
- Litter tray and litter
- Pet food
- Bowls
- Photo of your pet for identification purposes
- Lead, collar & identity disc
- Any medication they need



For more information on how you can prepare to look after your pets during an emergency visit: [swale.gov.uk/community-safety-and-emergencies/major-emergencies/pet-and-animal-welfare](https://www.swale.gov.uk/community-safety-and-emergencies/major-emergencies/pet-and-animal-welfare)

To report a stray dog during normal office hours, call **01795 417850** and we can make arrangements for the dog to be collected.

If a dog is found between 5pm and 9pm on weekday evenings, and between 9am and 9pm at weekends and on bank holidays, ring the found stray dog line on **07795 237479**.

# Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park goes Green

Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park has again been recognised by the Green Flag Award Scheme as one of the very best in the country.

The award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces.

To celebrate the announcement the park was lit up in green as part of the Green Flag Award's #GoGreenForParks initiative, to show appreciation for spaces that mean so much to people.

After 18 months that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, the news that Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park has achieved the Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make the green space a great space that everyone can enjoy.

Oare joins parks and green spaces as diverse as the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, Woodhouse Park in Peterlee and Chiswick Old Cemetery in London.

The country park has also achieved the much-coveted Green Heritage Site Accreditation, supported by Historic England, for the management of its historic features.



“

**Cllr Julian Saunders**, cabinet member for environment at the council, said:

“We are absolutely delighted to once again receive a Green Flag Award for Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park.

“Quality green spaces matter to our residents and visitors, and this award celebrates the dedication that goes into maintaining Oare to such a high standard by our officers and the friends group.

“Oare is a wonderful place to explore, enjoy, and find out about an important part of the history of the area.”

Commenting on the news that the country park has achieved the Green Flag Award standard, Green Flag Award Scheme Manager Paul Todd said:

“I would like to congratulate everyone involved in making Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park worthy of a Green Flag Award.”

“To meet the requirements demanded by the scheme is testament to the hard work of the staff and volunteers who do so much to ensure that Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park has high standards of horticulture, safety and environmental management and is a place that supports people to live healthy lives.”

”

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.





# Celebrate Tree Week at Faversham Rec

National Tree Week is the UK's largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). In 2021, it will take place from Saturday 27 November – Sunday 5 December.

There are a number of free events taking place at Faversham Rec that you can take part in:

**Saturday 27 November,**  
10am-11.30 and  
1pm-2.30

Crafting and tree dressing at the Rec.

**Wednesday 1 December,**  
10am.

Community tree planting, launch of the booklet '21 Trees of Faversham Rec' and a tour of our leafy friends.

**Thursday 2 December,**  
at 10am and 12 noon.

Winter tree identification at the Rec.

**Friday 3 December,**  
at 10am and 12 noon.

A treasured landscape: the heritage of the Rec.

**Saturday 4 December,**  
at 10am and 12 noon.

Stories of trees at the Rec.



All events start at kiosk at the lodge. Crafting & tree dressing must be booked through the Anna Outdoors Facebook page.

Other activities / events are 30 people maximum and are first come, first served. For more information about the events, visit the Friends of Faversham Recreation Ground Facebook page or email

[favrec@swale.gov.uk](mailto:favrec@swale.gov.uk)

## Planning on planting a tree?

### Choose your site

**carefully** Give your tree plenty of room to grow. Plant away from buildings and overhead power lines.

### Choose your tree

**carefully** Look at the tree. Will it grow well in your planting site? Will it like the soil? Does it like sunny or shady places? Do you want a fruit tree?

**Take care before and after planting** Keep your tree's roots out of the wind. Make sure roots are kept wet during planting.

**Digging** Dig the plant pit to the correct depth so roots are planted just below the surface. It should be wide enough to allow the roots to spread.

**Staking** A stake is needed for three years at the most if the tree is taller than 1.5m when you plant it.

**Guards** If there are rabbits, hares or deer in your area, use a tree guard.

**Tending** Between March and September, check your trees. Cut off any dead branches.

**Loosening** Is the tie too tight? If it is, loosen it or remove it if the tree doesn't lean.

**Clearing** Water your trees during dry weather. Remove all the grass and weeds for a radius of 0.5m. Put down a mulch mat or old piece of carpet.



# Get help to get online



Families on low incomes will be helped to make the most of digital opportunities as part of a project to improve digital inclusion across the Isle of Sheppey.

We're working with Kent County Council on a scheme that will provide low-income families with access to digital resources and skills.

The project will provide donated digital devices to low-income families as well as digital skills support for people looking to start or improve their digital knowledge. There will also be investment into the digital infrastructure of the island initiatives such as a community wi-fi trial rollout and the bolstering of existing digital access points such as the Mobile Matters work conducted by Sheppey Matters.

Kent County Council has provided £54,904 towards this project, from the Helping Hands scheme launched earlier this year by Kent County Council Leader, Roger Gough. £35,000 of this will be made available to voluntary and community sector organisations to equip them better digitally.

The key areas of focus will be employability skills, digital-oriented financial support, social isolation and mental health, and accessibility to services.

The groups being targeted for support will be digital seniors, e-withdrawn residents, passive and uncommitted users, and settled offline communities.

**Cllr Angela Harrison**, cabinet member for health & wellbeing, said:

"The pandemic has sped up the rate of services being provided online, which can bring benefits to lots of people, but if you're not online, or don't feel comfortable using the technology, you can feel left behind.

"There can also be a certain amount of stigma for people who don't have devices that businesses or services assume everyone has access to.

"We want to work with people to help make sure they can access the technology they might need to, and they are comfortable using it safely."

**Cllr Roger Gough**, Leader of Kent County Council said:

"I am pleased we are working with Swale Borough Council and partners, including the Pyramid Project CIC, to improve digital inclusion and skills on the Isle of Sheppey.

"This is one of many projects across the county we are supporting, delivering on our commitment to provide assistance to those who need it and helping our residents build back from the past 18 months of COVID"

Local organisation Pyramid Project CIC have been awarded £19,904 to deliver skills workshops and training courses.

Paul West, Director of Pyramid Project CIC, said:

"The digital skills and understanding that Sheppey residents are required to have to improve their employability prospects and to keep connected with friends and family is at an all-time high.

"The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted a lot of the basic digital needs Sheppey residents have and through the support of KCC and Swale Borough Council we are now able to address a number of those needs through meaningful practical skills courses and workshops centred around digital technologies.

"The courses will be available until the end of March 2022 for Sheppey residents, and we encourage anyone who needs support in improving their digital skills to get in touch."

To find out more about the project, including how to receive support, call the Pyramid Project CIC on **07483 176 251**.



# HOLLIS HEATING

Family run business for over 50 years

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**Sittingbourne**

**01795 473170**

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**Boiler installations starting from**

**£1750 inc VAT**

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





## New barge artwork for Hanson Alley

Hanson Alley in Sittingbourne has been brightened up with newly painted artwork.

We commissioned local artist Richard Jeferies to work with local communities to design the new boards, which had been up for many years.

The old barge artwork boards on wall of the alley which leads through to the Swallows Leisure Centre, were severely water damaged and had weathered many years, so were due a refresh.

The 13 boards featured images of barges, some of which have been copied on to new boards, alongside some new artwork, all with the theme of barges. Local artist Richard Jeferies worked with the local community, including Raybel, on the design of the new boards.

The bright new boards were installed and in their new home in late September.

The refreshed boards were repainted as part of our works in Swale's high streets to keep them attractive and inviting places for visitors and tourists.

### Before



### After





# Get in the festive spirit in Swale this year

With Christmas just around the corner, there's no better time to check out everything Swale has to offer.

From seasonal markets to popular pantomimes, there are plenty of ways to get into the festive spirit. You have the opportunity to pick up a unique gift, some treats for Christmas day or to be filled with the joys of Christmas.



## Artisan Craft Curios and Gift Christmas Markets

**The Alexander Centre, Faversham**

**Saturday 6 November – Sunday 12 December**

Have a browse at the wonderful gifts on offer at the Christmas Market at the Alexander Centre. You can pick up some presents for your loved ones this Christmas.

## Christmas Wreath Making Workshop

**The Alexander Centre, Faversham**

**Wednesday 24 November and Wednesday 1 December**

Create a beautiful Christmas wreath with Kim Barnicott from Bee Street Flowers [instagram.com/beestreeflowerskent](https://www.instagram.com/beestreeflowerskent)

All materials and light refreshments provided.

**7pm - 9pm** to book your place, contact The Alexander Centre – call **01795 591691** or email [bookings@thealexandercentre.com](mailto:bookings@thealexandercentre.com)



## Santa Specials on the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway

**Saturday 4 – Monday 20 December**

Trains will depart from Sittingbourne Viaduct station at **11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm (Saturday 18th is already sold out)**, and will be using the compartment coaches so please wrap up warm.

The fare includes the round trip from Sittingbourne Viaduct station, departing on the hour.

After the 15-minute journey to Kemsley Down, Father Christmas leads passengers to the Footplate Café where adults receive their seasonal refreshments. Children will be called to visit Santa's Grotto, which is a short walk away. One adult must accompany a child while visiting Santa, where they can choose a gift from a selection of toys.

The train will return to Sittingbourne Viaduct station to complete the entire trip within two hours.

Tickets must be booked in advance through TicketSource, [ticketsource.co.uk/sittingbourne-kemsley-light-railway](https://ticketsource.co.uk/sittingbourne-kemsley-light-railway) or call **0333 666 3366** (local rate call that will incur a £1.80 administration fee).

## Faversham Christmas Market Weekend

**Friday 10 – Sunday 12 December**

A three-day Christmas special with all three markets, (Charter, Best of Faversham & Antiques) coming together. All three markets will be selling a selection of gifts, food and drink, and Christmas decorations from local makers and traders. Set in the picturesque medieval market place with lovely town centre shops and cafes.

## Sleeping Beauty – Sittingbourne's Pantomime

**Swallow's Leisure Centre**

**Wednesday 15 – Friday  
24 December**

One of the most popular fairy tales, Sleeping Beauty, will be retold at Sittingbourne's Pantomime this Christmas.

With music, Comedy and fun for all, Sleeping Beauty is the pantomime you've been waiting for this Christmas.

Ticket's start at £10.50, to Book tickets:

Call the Box Office on  
**01795 420420**

Book online at  
**sittingbournepanto.co.uk**

Book in Person at The Swallows Leisure Centre.

## Festive Music & Comedy Show

**The Criterion Blue Town**

**Wednesday 15 –  
Thursday 16 December**

Head to The Criterion for Christmas treats with music, comedy, and a good old-fashioned feel-good show for the festive season. Tickets include a festive cream tea.

For more information and to book, visit:  
**thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/tours-activities/christmas-variety-show**

## Santa's Grotto

**The Alexander Centre,  
Faversham**

**Saturday 18 – Sunday 19  
December**

A visit to Santa is the ultimate way to get into the festive spirit and he will be visiting a grotto at the Alexander Centre in Faversham, with a gift (a book and chocolate figure) for each child.

Booking a time slot is essential, and each family will see Santa on their own, and socially distanced to keep everyone safe. And whilst you're with visiting, why not do some shopping in the Christmas market?

Slot to see Santa must be booked - please call **01795 591691** or email **bookings@thealexandercentre.com** to book a specific day and time. **Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th December 9am - 5pm**

For the latest information about all these events, and to stay up to date, head to the Visit Swale website: **visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on**

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found on the Visit Swale website: **visit-swale.co.uk**

You can submit events online for listing on Visit Swale and Visit Kent.

Simply visit **visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form**. Or, you can contact us with your listings by emailing **tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk**

Don't forget to follow us on social media:  
**@Visit\_Swale VisitSwale**







# Christmas closures

Our phone lines will be closed and office will be closed for appointments over the Christmas break, you can see more details of when they will be closed in the table below.

Our out of hours service will continue to operate during this time.

- You can contact our emergency housing service on **01795 417711** if you're homeless and have no alternative accommodation.
  - To report road and highway emergencies, including street lighting by call Kent County Council on **03000 41 91 91**
  - Tell us you've found a stray dog by calling **07795 237479**
  - Report flooding by calling Floodline on **0345 988 1188**
- You can also head to our website to report issues, make a payment and access information, simply visit [swale.gov.uk](https://swale.gov.uk)

Friday 24 December	Monday 27 December to Monday 3 January	Tuesday 4 January
Phone lines close and appointments end at 3pm	Closed	Phone lines open as usual and appointments resume





# BOOST YOUR IMMUNITY THIS WINTER

## WITH THE FLU VACCINE + COVID-19 BOOSTER

Flu and COVID-19 can both be life-threatening and spread more easily in winter. If you're over 50 or in an at risk group, you are eligible for a free flu vaccine and a COVID-19 booster.

**Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Get protected.**  
[nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

# Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service



With the colder winter months ahead, paying fuel and energy bills can be daunting.

If you need extra support in reducing your water and energy bills, you can reach out to our Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service for help and advice.

The free and confidential service can help with advice on how to effectively manage energy and water use in your homes, and support if you are eligible to apply for grants and emergency fuel vouchers. Our adviser can also help pensioners apply for a lower tariff on their water bills.

You can make a self-referral to the service, and housing officers, health workers, family finance workers, housing associations, food banks and other charities are able to make a referral on your behalf.

It's simple to make an appointment with Fuel and Water Home Adviser Service,

visit [children-families.org/fuel-water-home-adviser.html](https://children-families.org/fuel-water-home-adviser.html) or call **01795 889233** or **07862 158783**.

## Help keeping your home warm

You may be able to get help towards keeping your home warm, including if you're receiving certain types of benefits or you have a health condition which is affected by living in cold conditions.

We may be able to refer you for extra support if you haven't previously qualified for help under benefit-based schemes and you're:

- in fuel poverty
- on a low income
- vulnerable because of a health condition which is affected by cold living conditions

To see if you're eligible for extra support such as the warm homes scheme, visit: [swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/housing/help-keeping-your-home-warm](https://swale.gov.uk/housing-council-tax-and-benefits/housing/help-keeping-your-home-warm)

## Top tips for saving energy and water

There's some simple ways to save money and energy in your home:

### Changing lightbulbs

New lightbulbs use less energy and cost less to run. By replacing them with LED with a lower wattage but the same light output you could save £10 per year per lightbulb.

### Boiling water with a kettle

By only filling a kettle with the amount of water you need for your hot drink you can avoid wasting energy boiling excess water. You can save more than £23 a year just by being careful with how you use kitchen appliances.

For more tips like this, book an appointment with our Fuel and Water Home Adviser.







Christmas generates more waste around your house than usual and it can be difficult to know what to do with it. Where possible it's a good idea to reduce the amount being produced, but a lot can also be reused and recycled before putting it in with general waste.

### Reuse

Unfortunately artificial trees can't currently be recycled. Offer an unwanted tree to friends or family, or book a slot and take them to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

Christmas gift bags, chocolate tins, tinsel and Christmas decorations, crisp or whiskey tubes can all be reused. Even Christmas cards can be used for handmade gift tags next year.



### Scrunch it and see!

Did you know that not all wrapping paper can be recycled?

But there is a quick and easy way to test if it can be recycled or not. Simply grab a handful and scrunch it into a ball, if it stays in a ball when you open your hand then it can go in with your recycling. If it doesn't, pop it in your general waste or save it for wrapping next year's presents!



### Recycle

Be sure to pop empty cardboard boxes, Christmas cards and wrapping paper (make sure to do the scrunch test) in with your recycling.

Chocolate tins, cardboard chocolate boxes, plastic inner trays, chocolate advent calendars, foil trays, empty cranberry sauce and brandy butter jars and lids, and empty cream pots can also all be recycled.

Your real Christmas tree can be chopped up and put in your garden waste bin. Alternatively, book in a slot at your local household waste and recycling centre. Head to the Kent County Council website for the Christmas opening times at tips.

### General waste

Don't forget to pop any bubble wrap, polystyrene, plastic wrapping, sweet and chocolate wrappers, used party poppers, glittery Christmas cards and wrapping paper that doesn't stay scrunched in with your general waste.

If in doubt, visit [swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard](https://www.swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard) to see what bin you should pop something in.



## Bin collections this Christmas

Due to when Christmas Day and New Year's day fall this year, there will be no changes to general waste and recycling collections over the Christmas period.

Our contractors will be working the Bank Holidays, so collections will remain the same Monday to Friday.

Garden waste and bulky waste collections will be suspended from Monday 27 December for two weeks and will restart on Monday 10 January.

Clinical collections will remain the same.

As ever, our contractors will do their best to collect your general waste or recycling on the day that it is scheduled, however please do check [swale.gov.uk](http://swale.gov.uk) for any updates on disruptions if there is any adverse weather this winter.



## Still time to take part in the Local Plan consultation

There's still time to let us know your views on our Local Plan.

We are seeking further views on the options for a development strategy for the Local Plan Review.

The Regulation 18 consultation runs until 5pm on Monday 29 November, providing the public with the opportunity to respond to a number of questions about a broad development strategy that could bring forward the borough's future development needs.

The Council has identified five potential options for consideration and seeks views on how the Local Plan could address the key challenges facing the borough including responding to climate change and the effects of the covid pandemic.

Copies of the consultation documents are available for inspection at libraries in the borough and can also be viewed on Swale Borough Council's website: [swale.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/local-plans/local-plan-review/public-consultation](http://swale.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/local-plans/local-plan-review/public-consultation)



# COP26

The UK played host to the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021 to help set an international pledge to prevent global warming.

The COP26 summit brought parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Prior to COP26 we joined the UK100 along with 88 other local councils, representing over half of the UK population and 34,030,804 million people, committing to meeting Net Zero at least five years earlier than the UK government.

UK100's Net Zero Pledge commits local authorities to cutting their council emissions to Net Zero by 2030 and those of their residents and businesses by 2045 - five years ahead of the UK government's 2050 target.

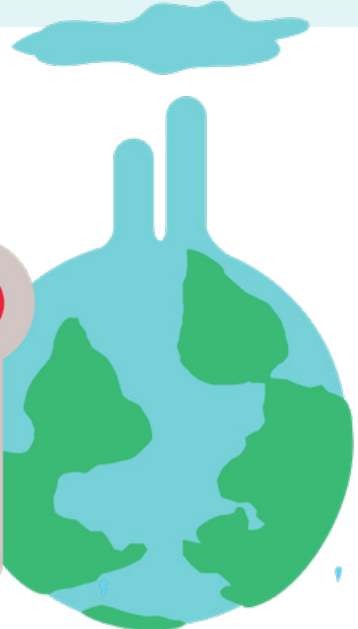
**Cllr Tim Valentine**, cabinet member for the climate emergency at the council, said: "When we took office in 2019, one of our first actions was to declare a climate and ecological emergency and set ambitious targets for the council and the borough. This has been backed up by an action plan adopted in April 2020.



Swale Borough Council now runs a fleet of electric vans, has developed a policy for new homes to emit less carbon than permitted under the current building regulations and started to make our own estate more energy efficient.

"We are delighted that our ambition is being recognised by membership of UK100. Local councils are leading on climate action and we look forward to learning about new solutions from other ambitious councils.

"COP26 gives us a fantastic opportunity to lobby Government to provide the finance and powers councils need to do so much more to meet our ambitious targets for the borough."



W. CHA

Across Swale we produce **1,150 kilotons** of CO2 per year – this works out at 7.7 tonnes per person. To start to understand what you can do help reduce this, you first need to calculate your carbon footprint, which you can do by visiting: [footprint.wvf.org.uk](http://footprint.wvf.org.uk)

Trees, hedges and woodland are the ultimate form of carbon capture. A young wood can lock up **400+ tonnes** of carbon per hectare. We're planting even more trees this winter as part of our offsetting plans and to encourage biodiversity. You can help too by planting trees at home or keeping an eye out for local tree planting projects and events.

We will soon be launching a dedicated website where you can find out what we are doing in our efforts to cut carbon and make a difference to the current climate and ecological emergency: [cee.swale.gov.uk](http://cee.swale.gov.uk)

## Lots of leftovers?

Full to bursting after all that food at Christmas, but not sure what to do with your leftovers? Or what about the extra pack of mince pies you got because you didn't think you would have enough, which is now going untouched?

Christmas generates lots of leftovers, but you can cut down on the festive food waste with some simple tips.

**Cook it** – there are lots of things you can do with your leftover turkey and trimmings. Why not try a tasty turkey curry this Boxing Day? There are plenty of recipes online. Try out the Love Food Hate Waste website, and use their search to find out what you can do with your Christmas leftovers: [lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes](https://lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes)

**Freeze it** – If you make some extra space in your freezer on the lead up to Christmas you can stock it with the milk, bread, cakes, and mince pies you may have bought too much of.

**Recycle it** – Anything that you can't use up can go in your black and orange food waste bin. If you need help with what can and can't go in your food waste bin, visit:

[swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard](https://swale.gov.uk/waste-wizard)

If you would like to see if you're able to start food waste collections, or if you would like to order replacement food waste bins, call **01795 417888**.



## Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you're unsure of your collection week, visit

[swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/bins/collection-days](https://swale.gov.uk/bins-littering-and-the-environment/bins/collection-days)

**Don't forget** - food waste is collected weekly with both bins. In the event of severe weather, please leave your green/blue bin and food waste bin out as per your normal collection schedule – we'll get to you as soon as we can. Daily updates will be available on [swale.gov.uk](https://swale.gov.uk) and click the 'Next Bin Collection' link, or call **01795 417888**.

Garden waste collections will be suspended from Monday 27 December for two weeks and will restart on Monday 10 January.

### Week 1 collections

January 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

### Week 2 collections

January 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2022						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



Blue bin collection week



Green bin collection week



## Faversham's walled garden lease extended for 25 years

The historic walled garden at The Mount in Faversham can now be restored to its former glory thanks to a 25-year lease from Swale Borough Council.

Brogdale CIC hold the current lease which will be extended by 25-years when it expires in June 2022. Since taking on the garden in 2017, Brogdale CIC have installed a self-composting toilet, solar lighting and made a classroom from an old unusable boiler room.

The garden also hosts specialist education for students aged 16-25 years, and carpentry workshops and youth clubs for young people in social care.



Rebecca O'Neill, Managing Director at Brogdale CIC, said:

"We've leased the beautiful walled garden for five years and have put in an incredible amount of work. With a longer lease, we can now fully invest in the Georgian garden and restore it to how it was more than 200 years ago.

"We've already restored an old boiler room to create a classroom for horticulture sessions with our disadvantaged young people from Craftworks College, and installed a self-composting toilet,

solar lighting, and well for watering the garden.

"Now we have the certainty of a longer lease, we can apply for external funding to renovate a beautiful old glass house that has collapsed, and restore the paths and gardens for the community to enjoy."

**Cllr Roger Truelove**, leader of the council, said:

"Brogdale CIC have done tremendous work in the time they've leased the gardens, improving the grounds, and offering opportunities to disadvantaged young people.

"Now we have approved the extension of the lease, a future visit to the walled garden could offer a step back in time with a sustainable future."

**Cllr Richard Palmer**, cabinet member for community at the council, said:

"The walled garden dates back to Georgian times, and to have it fully restored would be a real asset for the community.

"The site was previously used as a rehabilitation facility for officers returning from the first and second world wars, and having the garden brought back to life is wonderful to see."

Councillors agreed the extension of the lease at the last cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 22 September.



# First year of Swale's Area Committees

Last year we introduced area committees to help you have your say on council decision making for your local community.

Area committees give local councillors a chance to connect with the public and bring valuable local insight to council decision-making. Honest and open dialogue with the public is a key priority for the council, so the introduction of the area committees was an important way for us to have that open dialogue.

Now, one year on from the first committee meetings, here is how each committee has been working with local communities on issues that matter most to you.

The four committees are made up of all the councillors representing wards in the following areas:

- Eastern - Abbey, Boughton and Courtenay, East Downs, Priory, St Ann's, Teynham and Lynsted and Watling wards.
- Sheppey – Minster Cliffs, Queenborough and Halfway, Sheerness, Sheppey Central and Sheppey East
- Sittingbourne - Chalkwell, Homewood, Kemsley, Milton Regis, Murston and Roman

- Western - Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow, Borden and Grove Park, Hartlip Newington and Upchurch, the Meads, Woodstock and West Down.

All committees provided important feedback into the future provision of waste collection and street cleansing.

Western, Sittingbourne and Sheppey committees have all held sessions to raise awareness of issues relating to secondary school provision and provide the opportunity for the public to ask the Kent County Council area education officer questions about education and provisions in their area.

Eastern area committee has given the public the opportunity to voice their concerns about flooding to Kent County Council and their local MP. These conversations have resulted in the MP setting up a meeting with all relevant agencies to resolve the issues and raise these concerns. The committee also raised the need to improve public transport in Faversham and rural areas.

Western area committee is addressing the run down nature of the area and is working with Kent County Council and Highways England and requesting deep cleans.

Sittingbourne area committee is addressing issues specific to the urban area that were highlighted following ward walks. These include, speeding, fly-tipping, parking issues among others.

Sheppey area committee is taking the issue of flooding at Warden village to the Cabinet Member who is in ongoing discussions with the Environment Agency about this matter. The committee also gave the community the opportunity to raise local matters of concern to the Police.

Area committees take place quarterly with the next round of meetings taking place:

Sheppey area committee, Tuesday 30 November, 7pm, The Criterion Blue Town

Sittingbourne area committee, Tuesday 7 December, 7pm, Kemsley Community Centre

Western area committee, Tuesday 14 December, 7pm, Swale House

Eastern area committee, Thursday 16 December, 7pm, Swale House

More information about each of these meetings will be available on the council's social media pages and on our website.



# Are you ready for winter? ❄️

Part of preparing for winter is making sure you know what to do if there's an issue with your power, water or gas supply. Although power cuts and water supply issues are increasingly rare, they can still happen especially during severe weather. They can be particularly worrying for people in vulnerable circumstances.

A number of providers have priority register services which offer free additional support and advice to pensioners, families with young children and people with special needs, disabilities or health conditions. Each supplier will offer something different but you can find out how to sign up below.

## UK Power Networks

UK Power Networks owns and maintains the cables delivering electricity to the South East and their engineers fix any problems with the electricity lines and cables.

If you're on the register, you can access free extra services including:

- A 24-hour priority phone number
- A dedicated team who will keep you updated during a power cut
- Tailored support such as home visits, hot meals, advice and keeping your friends and relatives updated

Being on the register doesn't necessarily mean your power can be restored any quicker, but will mean that UK Power Networks are aware of your needs and can arrange extra support.

To apply to be included on the register visit [ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority](https://ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority), call **0800 169 9970**, or email [psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk](mailto:psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk).

## Southern Water

This is a confidential register for customers who have individual needs, and ensures their employees know about any special circumstances or needs you may have. Southern Water can then provide additional support including help if your water supply is interrupted, bills and letters in large print or braille, talking bills and frequent meter readings.

To be added to the register you can phone for free on **0800 027 0800** from 9am–5pm, Monday to Friday. You'll need to make sure you have your payment reference number to hand, this can be found on your bill.

Alternatively you can apply online by visiting [southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/join-our-priority-services-register](https://southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/join-our-priority-services-register).

## South East Water

By registering for South East Water's Priority Services, you can:

- Receive prior warning of planned work which may interrupt your water supply
- Receive priority treatment should your water supply be interrupted (such as arranging an alternative source as quickly as possible, and including hand-delivering bottled drinking water to customers with mobility issues)
- Receive important information and bills in a more convenient format, such as large print or the spoken word, where our normal presentation style is not suitable

- Nominate somebody else to receive your water bill on your behalf (the person you nominate must agree to this)
- If English isn't your first language they may be able to help you with an interpretation service when you call
- Receive information about specialist organisations which are able to provide advice on possible adaptations to water fittings and appliances around the home

If you would like to register for Priority Services, please fill in a secure online form below or call **0333 000 2468** Monday to Friday between 8am - 7pm.

For more information about the service, visit [southeastwater.co.uk/psr](https://southeastwater.co.uk/psr)

## British Gas

The British Gas Priority Service offers services such as large print or Braille bills and free gas safety checks. They will also share your data with your network operator, who will get in touch if your electricity supply is going to be interrupted. They'll help you figure out what to do to stay safe.

### You can register if you:





- are over 65
- have a disability or long-term illness
- rely on medical equipment in your home
- have a child or children under the age of five
- have gone through a recent bereavement
- break-up or job loss
- are recovering from a hospital treatment
- are living independently for the first time

Call **0800 0728 625** to register.






























Or, if you are a Pay As You Go customer, call on 0800 294 8604. Or visit: [britishgas.co.uk/Priority-Service-Register](https://britishgas.co.uk/Priority-Service-Register).

# Your councillors

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

 Conservative  
 Green  
 Independent  
 Labour

 Liberal Democrats  
 Swale Independents Alliance  
 Reform UK  
 Independents First

<b>Abbey</b> <b>Denise Knights</b>  07774 701381 deniseknights@swale.gov.uk <b>Hannah Perkin</b>  07811 035512 hannahperkin@swale.gov.uk <b>Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow</b> <b>Roger Clark</b>  01795 430324 rogerclark@swale.gov.uk <b>Corrie Woodford</b>  corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk <b>Borden and Grove Park</b> <b>Mike Baldock</b>  01795 471139 mikebaldock@swale.gov.uk <b>Nicholas Hampshire</b>  01795 477560/07739 108756 nicholashampshire@swale.gov.uk <b>Boughton and Courtenay</b> <b>Alastair Gould</b>  alastairgould@swale.gov.uk <b>Tim Valentine</b>  07752 191807 timvalentine@swale.gov.uk <b>Chalkwell</b> <b>Ghlin Whelan</b>  01795 475629 ghlinwhelan@swale.gov.uk <b>East Downs</b> <b>David Simmons</b>  01795 532100 davidsimmons@swale.gov.uk <b>Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch</b> <b>Alan Horton</b>  07447 925760 alanhorton@swale.gov.uk <b>Richard Palmer</b>  07702 674721 richardpalmer@swale.gov.uk	<b>Homewood</b> <b>Simon Clark</b>  simonclark@swale.gov.uk <b>Roger Truelove</b>  01795 425445 rogertruelove@swale.gov.uk <b>Kemsley</b> <b>Derek Carnell</b>  01795 550190/07988 244364 derekcarnell@swale.gov.uk <b>Mike Dendor</b>  07733 937102 mikedendor@swale.gov.uk <b>Milton Regis</b> <b>Steve Davey</b>  stevedavey@swale.gov.uk <b>Tony Winckless</b>  01795 425987 tonywinckless@swale.gov.uk <b>Minster Cliffs</b> <b>Richard Darby</b>  01795 227592 richarddarby@swale.gov.uk <b>Ken Ingleton</b>  01795 873709/07973 303384 keningleton@swale.gov.uk <b>Ken Pugh</b>  01795 871388 kenpugh@swale.gov.uk <b>Murston</b> <b>James Hall</b>  jameshall@swale.gov.uk <b>Ann Hampshire</b>  01795 477560/07940 142473 annhampshire@swale.gov.uk <b>Priory</b> <b>Mike Henderson</b>  mikehenderson@swale.gov.uk	<b>Queenborough and Halfway</b> <b>Cameron Beart</b>  07592 108351 cameronbeart@swale.gov.uk <b>Simon Fowle</b>  07802 449700 simonfowle@swale.gov.uk <b>Peter Marchington</b>  01795 661960/07767 607456 petermarchington@swale.gov.uk <b>Roman</b> <b>Tim Gibson</b>  01795 427074 timgibson@swale.gov.uk <b>Ken Rowles</b>  01795 599003/07831 563354 kenrowles@swale.gov.uk <b>Sheerness</b> <b>Oliver Eakin</b>  olivereakin@swale.gov.uk <b>Angela Harrison</b>  01795 665029 angelaharrison@swale.gov.uk <b>Lee McCall</b>  07590 012105 leemccall@swale.gov.uk <b>Sheppey Central</b> <b>Elliott Jayes</b>  07708 956059 elliotjayes@swale.gov.uk <b>Peter MacDonald</b>  01795 873116/07523860074 petermacdonald@swale.gov.uk <b>Pete Neal</b>  peteneal@swale.gov.uk	<b>Sheppey East</b> <b>Padmini Nissanga</b>  07500 863623 mininissanga@swale.gov.uk <b>Bill Tatton</b>  01795 511516 billtatton@swale.gov.uk <b>St Ann's</b> <b>Carole Jackson</b>  07746 772694 carolejackson@swale.gov.uk <b>Julian Saunders</b>  07746 772695 juliansaunders@swale.gov.uk <b>Teynham and Lynsted</b> <b>Lloyd Bowen</b>  01795 522357 lloydbowen@swale.gov.uk <b>Mike Whiting</b>  01795 842631 mikewhiting@swale.gov.uk <b>The Meads</b> <b>James Hunt</b>  01795 417803 jameshunt@swale.gov.uk <b>Watling</b> <b>Ben J Martin</b>  01795 417806 benmartin@swale.gov.uk <b>Eddie Thomas</b>  07872 472032 eddiethomas@swale.gov.uk <b>West Downs</b> <b>Monique Bonney</b>  07973 443527 moniquebonney@swale.gov.uk <b>Woodstock</b> <b>Paul Stephen</b>  01795 430774 paulstephen@swale.gov.uk <b>Sarah Stephen</b>  01795 430774 sarahstephen@swale.gov.uk
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# Learn to Swim in Swale!

Sign up TODAY!

For full details of all our swimming lessons  
for all ages and abilities please visit:


[www.swaleleisure.com](http://www.swaleleisure.com)

**Sheppey Leisure Complex**  
Off the Broadway, Sheerness,  
Kent, ME12 1HH  
Tel: **01795 668652**

**Swallows Leisure Centre**  
Central Avenue, Sittingbourne,  
Kent, ME10 4NT  
Tel: **01795 420420**

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