

Summer 2026

Inside Swale



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For more information about your local councillor visit swale.gov.uk/your-council

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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

The information in this publication is correct at the time of going to print and every attempt is made to ensure its accuracy.

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Summer is the perfect time to reflect on what makes Swale a

fantastic place to call home. Whether you are spending time with family, exploring our beautiful coastline, or attending local events, I hope you enjoy everything our borough has to offer this season.

This edition is packed with positive stories showing how we are investing in our communities. I am particularly excited by our progress with the Sheerness Revival programme. We are bringing new life to the town, and if you visit the seafront this summer, I encourage you to try the new adventure golf course and see the transformation yourself.

We are also celebrating the people who make Swale special. From recognising our Civic Award winners to expanding protections for our rich heritage, we have so much to be proud of. You will also find details on the relaunched Councillor and Resident Forums, giving you more opportunities to have your say and shape your community's future.

As always, we remain committed to protecting the environment. Inside, you will find useful tips for managing food waste and recycling, plus details on our garden waste subscriptions. You can also discover how to support local charities through the Swale Community Lottery and learn about the new Crisis and Resilience Grants designed to strengthen our communities.

Thank you for playing your part in making Swale a welcoming, vibrant, and resilient borough. Stay safe and have a wonderful summer.

Tim Gibson

Cllr Tim Gibson,
Leader of Swale Borough Council



Have you joined the Swale Community Lottery yet?

By taking part in Swale's Community Lottery you can not only support good causes but also stand the chance to win cash prizes of up to £25,000 each week.

Tickets are just £1 for the weekly draw, and you can choose to support one of the over 50 registered good causes in Swale, with more of your money going to your chosen cause than with any other major lottery.

The 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 the tickets they sell.

A further 10% from every ticket sale goes into Swale Borough Council's central fund, which will be shared between the Mayor's charities, Cruse Bereavement East Kent and Swale, and Prostate Cancer UK. The remainder goes towards prize funds and operating costs.

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

As well as the weekly draws, where players could win prizes of £25, £250, £2,000 or the £25,000 jackpot, there are also monthly super draws.

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 for just the super draw.

You can sign up to play the Swale Community Lottery at swalecommunitylottery.co.uk



Visit our award-winning beaches this summer!

Wanting to head to the beach during the nicer weather this summer? Look no further than Swale's own shoreline!

Environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy has announced that three bathing beaches on the Isle of Sheppey are among the winners of the prestigious Blue Flag and Seaside Awards for summer 2026.

This year the beaches which have met the high standard required to be presented with a Blue Flag, Seaside Award, or both are:

- **Sheerness**
Blue Flag and Seaside Award
- **Leysdown**
Seaside Award
- **Minster Leas**
Seaside Award



Seaside Awards are presented to the best beaches in England and celebrate the quality and diversity of our coastline. The Blue Flag is only presented to beaches with water which has achieved the highest classification as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and has an environmental education programme. To qualify, each applicant must meet and maintain a series of stringent environmental, educational, safety and accessibility criteria.

Latest plan to help promote active travel in Swale

Thanks to your feedback we have developed a plan to promote cycling and walking across the borough over the next ten years.

The new Swale local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP) outlines the council's ambitions for active travel.

The LCWIP is fundamental for applying for funding from central government and plays an important role in planning, helping to make sure active travel is safe, accessible, and integrated into Swale's local transport systems.

The feedback from the public consultation helped identify routes that need more lighting, new wayfinding or rerouting, and areas that may need traffic management such as speed limits or crossings.

Walking, wheeling and cycling are the greenest ways to travel, meaning active travel is not only good for people's health but also the environment, helping to reduce carbon emissions.



Families looking for a fun and unique educational day out can learn about the solar system at a one-of-a-kind Newton Space Garden in Faversham.

The garden is the brainchild of the Brogdale Collections and the UK Space Agency, and features a sapling grown from seeds of the very apple tree that inspired Sir Isaac Newton's theory of gravity.

These seeds were then taken to the International Space Station by UK astronaut Sir Tim Peake, where they floated in zero gravity for six months.

After returning to Earth, the seeds were nurtured into saplings at Kew Gardens, with one now taking centre stage at Brogdale's new attraction.

The garden also showcases additional apple trees with connections to space and Newton alongside a living willow planetarium dome, and willow entrance tunnel.

A space themed adventure trail, featuring fun obstacles, takes children from the dome - positioned as the sun - through different planet garden beds, explaining the universe in a fun and interactive way.

The Space Garden is also next to Brogdale's weather station offering the opportunity to learn the importance of the universe and climate on our weather and life on Earth.

A £7,000 grant from Swale Borough Council's Rural Swale Small Business Grant, funded by the Rural England Prosperity Fund, has helped make this project possible.

Such help is vital as the charity relies totally on its own revenue and fundraising.

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://www.swale.gov.uk/news-signup)

New councillors and residents forums



Area Committees have been relaunched! The first meeting of the new councillors & residents forums took place in June and were an opportunity to talk to councillors about what is concerning you in your community.

At this latest round of meetings there were opportunities for you to chat to your ward councillor before and after the meeting.

In addition to the regular updates on issues such as the Local Government Reorganisation and the Community Governance Review, at the Sheppey councillors & residents forum a Kent County Council representative was present to talk about education provision on the Isle of Sheppey, and there was a discussion at Sittingbourne's forum on how to improve footfall in the town centre.

Protecting more of Swale's heritage sites

Ninety landmarks will have additional protections after local people asked for them to be added to a list of Swale's heritage assets.

We asked people to help find and catalogue structures, green spaces, monuments, landscapes and more, that are important to Swale's local heritage.

These additions include the the Eastlea and Westlea Oast houses, Joyce Field - a community allotment in Faversham that has been in use for over 120 years - and an old stable block and barn in Macknade Farm.

On the Island the Prospect Villa in Minster - once visited by Charles Dickens - a memorial statue for the Short Brothers in Leysdown, the Victorian red brick Sheerness Conservative Club building and the Kingsferry Bridge, have been added.

Also added to the list is a henge dating back to the neolithic period in Iwade, a large ancient moat and enclosed green space in Bayford Court, and an old water fountain on Milton High Street.

The sites on the list are given the status of non-designated heritage assets, making their conservation a material consideration in any planning applications and local planning.

Welcoming in a new Mayor for the new Civic year

After taking part in more than 160 engagements, both in and outside of the borough, in May, Cllr Karen Watson passed on the chains of office and stepped down as the Mayor of Swale.

Cllr Derek Carnell was appointed as the new Mayor of Swale at the Annual Council meeting in May, with Cllr Angela Harrison appointed as Deputy Mayor.



Before saying goodbye to the role, Cllr Watson reflected on her time as Mayor:

"The thing I'm most proud of from my time as Mayor is being part of The Baton of Hope, which took place on the Isle of Sheppey in September. It was a great community feel, where we could all get together and share our experiences. One of the reasons I am so proud of it is because I had people come up to me after and say that I had made a difference. To me, being Mayor means that you have got to be able to make a difference, and at that event I did.

"We have some amazing groups in the borough that probably don't get enough recognition. It's all the unsung heroes you don't know about until you're the Mayor and then you start meeting them. What I've learned the most is to go out there and have a look. See what's in your community.

"I would say to Derek to enjoy it. Have fun. It's not all serious, sometimes it is, but it's not all serious. And make sure he gives himself a bit of me time."



The new Mayor of Swale, Cllr Derek Carnell, spoke of how he looked forward to the coming year:

"I'm looking forward to transitioning from my role as Deputy Mayor to the Mayor. I'm most looking forward to meeting everyone from the borough at the different events and representing Swale at the out of borough events. I want to attend as many events as I possibly can and meet as many people as I can."

Want the Mayor of Swale to attend your event? Visit the Mayor's Office pages on our website to find out how to invite the Mayor to your event: swale.gov.uk/your-council/the-mayors-office.

2026 Civic Awards

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.

Tim Force, Paul Oxberry, Kieren Payne, Jenny Hurkett were awarded the Civic Award which commends their efforts to make Swale a better place.

Philip Le Masonry won the Mayor's Lifetime Achievement Award for his work with St John Ambulance on the Isle of Sheppey.

Keeley Beaney, Paul Chapman, Mark Cooke, Craig Day, Megan Burney have also all been given the Highly Commended Award, for their selfless community work.

Denise Knights was awarded the Mayor's Special Award for her work with young people transforming lives across the Isle of Sheppey through her work with Launch It at Masters House.

A team award was given to Faversham Hopper Bus for their much needed and appreciated bus service, that makes sure no one is left isolated within their community.

Certificates of thanks were presented to Sheppey Pulse Network, Sheerness Town Team, Mary Culver, Julie Nicholls for their invaluable contributions to their communities.



Tim Force



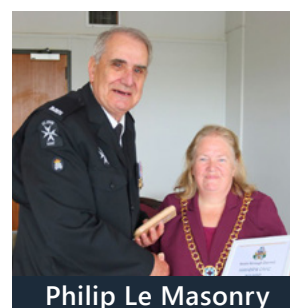
Paul Oxberry



Kieren Payne



Jenny Hurkett



Philip Le Masonry



Keeley Beaney



Paul Chapman



Megan Burney



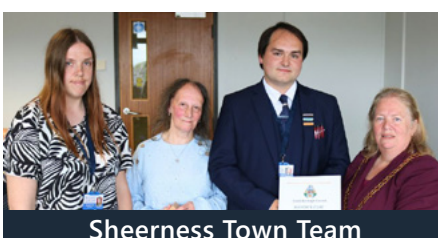
Denise Knights



Faversham Community Hopper Bus



Sheppey Pulse Network



Sheerness Town Team



Julie Nicholls

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Sittingbourne

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New health, wellbeing and cost of living projects

£30,000 is being invested in Swale to help six local charities deliver new projects that will boost health, support mental wellbeing, and help residents navigate the cost of living.

The Swale Cost of Living Group, a partnership between Swale Borough Council, voluntary organisations and Kent County Council, has awarded grants of £5,000 each through the Health Innovation Fund.

The money, provided by Kent County Council Public Health, empowers community partners to offer direct, practical support right where it is needed most.

The six projects receiving funding are:

- The Autism Apprentice CIC - delivering new therapeutic play sessions for autistic children. Trained therapists will help children build confidence and develop coping strategies in a safe space. Parents and carers will also get one-to-one advice calls to manage stress and cost of living challenges.
- Abbey Physic Community Garden - running a health and wellbeing gardening programme in Faversham. Residents will learn to grow their own food, cut household costs, and join mindful cooking and gardening courses to reduce isolation and improve physical health.
- Children & Families - hosting a budget cooking course to teach residents how to prepare simple, nutritious meals for as little as £1 per person. The sessions will cover basic food preparation, smart shopping, and reducing waste.
- Friendly Faces of Kent - launching a community wellbeing programme to tackle loneliness. The charity will run walking groups and relaxation sessions to improve mental health and help isolated residents connect with others.
- Imago - supporting residents over 55 with one-to-one financial advice, debt support, and form-filling help. The project will also provide food and fuel vouchers for immediate relief, alongside health checks for housebound older people.
- Sateda - opening an Economic Abuse Clinic to help women recovering from domestic abuse rebuild their financial independence and improve their mental wellbeing.



Residents will be able to access these new services later this year as the charities get their projects up and running.

Living in a conservation area: what you need to know

Simple guide for residents

Living in a conservation area means being part of a place with a distinctive historic character. Having this designation helps to protect that character and appearance of the area, whether that's the buildings, streets or green spaces.

However, preserving what makes your area special comes with a few extra responsibilities.

This quick guide explains what conservation area status means in practice, what it protects, what permissions you may need, and how to avoid common pitfalls.

Postcard of Cellar Hill looking north c. 1900



Cellar Hill looking north



What is a conservation area?

A conservation area (CA) is a place recognised for its **special architectural or historic interest**. We (the local authority) have a legal duty to **preserve or enhance** its character and appearance.

Living in a CA doesn't mean you can't make changes. It simply means that any change should be carefully designed to fit in with area's character.

What does conservation area status protect?

CAs help safeguard:

- historic buildings and traditional details, the look and feel of streets, including rooflines, and boundary treatments
- mature trees, gardens and green spaces
- important views
- the overall character of the area

These protections matter because small changes, like replacing original windows, removing a chimney or altering boundary walls can gradually erode what makes a place unique. Once lost, these features are rarely recoverable.

What might need permission?

In a CA, some works need planning permission that would not normally need it elsewhere. This includes changes to your home:

- extensions (rear or side)
- dormer windows and some roof alterations
- cladding, rendering, or painting of external walls
- replacement windows and doors
- satellite dishes or solar panels on front or prominent elevations
- alterations to chimneys
- new or altered boundary walls, railings, fences, or gates
- demolition of buildings or significant structures such as boundary walls, outbuildings, or garden structures
- installing a fixed air-conditioning unit

If you're unsure, it's always best to check first.

Trees, large shrubs and hedges are protected

Most trees in CAs are protected.

If a tree is more than about 7.5cm thick (measured at 1.5m height), you must give the council **six weeks' notice** before carrying out work, including pruning or felling.

Article 4 Directions:

Some properties have additional restrictions known as Article 4 Directions. These remove certain "permitted development" rights, meaning you may need planning permission for work such as:

- replacing windows or doors
- altering boundary walls
- making small external changes

Check with the council to see if this applies to your property.

Why it's important to get it right

Carrying out work without permission can lead to:

- enforcement action requiring reinstatement
- prosecution for unauthorised demolition
- fines for unauthorised tree works (up to £20,000 or more)
- requirement to plant replacement trees

Getting advice early can save time, money and stress.

Where to get advice

The council's planning or heritage team can help with:

- pre-application advice
- Article 4 enquiries
- tree protection queries
- understanding what permissions, you need

We are happy to offer guidance and getting that advice early is the best way to ensure your plans go smoothly and respect the character of the conservation area.

For more information and advice, email conservation@swale.gov.uk

Quick checklist before you start

Ask yourself:

- ☐ Am I changing the outside appearance of my home?
- ☐ Am I replacing windows, doors, or boundary walls?
- ☐ Am I altering the roof or adding a dormer?
- ☐ Am I planning to cut back or remove a tree?
- ☐ Is my property affected by an Article 4 Direction?
- ☐ Have I checked with the council first?

Sheerness Revival

Enjoy a round of adventure golf this summer holiday!

Are you looking for something fun to do this summer? Why not head to adventure golf near the beachfront!

The Sheppey themed adventure golf course in Beachfields is ready to welcome you for some family summer fun.

The course was closed for several days in the spring to allow for routine maintenance to make sure the popular and challenging course is in tee-rific shape for peak season.

Just remember to book before you turn up so you are guaranteed your slot to have a swing on the course! Head to: moreleisure.com/sheppey-leisure-complex/sheerness-shipwreck-adventure-golf

Installed as part of our government funded Sheerness Revival project, the course features iconic monuments from the Island thanks to the design input of local school children.

A large replica of the SS Montgomery is the centrepiece of the exciting course, which features 18 holes celebrating the unique heritage and landmarks of the Island.



Paddling pool gets much deserved refurb!

Work is well underway on a full refurbishment of the Beachfields paddling pool in Sheerness!

Our original plans were to expand the area around the paddling pool outside the Healthy Living Centre to create more space for seating and picnic tables, and to install new facilities including toilets accessible from within the fenced area, and a serving hatch for the new cafe inside the leisure centre.

Now, thanks to additional funding, we are also able to replace the rubber crumb flooring, the pool itself will be resurfaced, new doors on the storerooms will be installed, and the surrounding walls will be repainted.

This, alongside repairs to the water plant equipment which keeps the pool clean, will refresh the area creating a pleasant place for your children to swim while parents enjoy the sun and the seaside breeze.

The paddling pool will need to remain closed while these additional works take place.

The project is part of our ongoing work to increase investment in the town and is funded by the UK Government through the Sheerness Revival project, and the Pride in Place Impact Fund (PIPIF).

Scaffolding comes down at Sheppey Healthy Living Centre

The Healthy Living Centre is unrecognisable as Etec have removed the scaffolding around the Sheppey Healthy Living Centre.

The cladding has now been installed on the new extension and the existing building has received a much needed refurbishment.

These works have transformed the centre, readying it for its grand reopening later this year!

Now that work to the outside is complete the construction company, Etec Group, will focus on fitting out the inside of the building ready for opening later this year.

Once the wiring, heating, and other fittings are installed, the new gym will be installed, along with upgraded health facilities, new café, adventure play area, and a dedicated space for the local charity Sheppey Matters.

The project will also bring a free outdoor gym, a multi-use games area, and a children's bicycle track to Beachfields. The team will fully refurbish the existing tennis court and paddling pool.

New paths and clear signs will make the whole area easier to reach and more welcoming for both residents and visitors.

Works to the Healthy Living centre have been made possible through UK Government funding.

The Sheerness Revival project looks to improve health, education, leisure, employment and wellbeing opportunities in Sheerness.



Installation of underwater themed adventure play gets underway!

Young People in Sheerness will be able to dive into a brand-new underwater themed adventure play area!

We have started installing the three-storey attraction at the centre in Beachfields.

The new play space will offer something for everyone when the centre reopens later this year.

The ground floor will include a calming sensory area and a toddler zone complete with a roleplay vet and café.

The first floor will host a sports pitch and a variety of physical challenges.

On the top level, 'tag active' elements challenge players to tap wristbands against sensors across climbing walls and rope bridges to score points.

To finish the course, two thrilling slides connect the top deck straight back to the ground.



**Funded by
UK Government**

EKC Sheppey Secondary

**YEAR 2 - AND THE
MOMENTUM IS REAL**

FOLLOW OUR STORY:

EKCSHEPPEYSECONDARY.ORG &



As EKC Sheppey Secondary reaches the end of just its second year, we're all proud to be sharing a story of ambition, opportunity and achievement that is reshaping what's possible for young people on the Isle of Sheppey. And whilst we're still in the early chapters of our school's story, the pace of progress has been extraordinary, and it's our students who are leading the way.

We started the year by proudly celebrating our recognition as a European Parliament Ambassador School, a prestigious honour that places active citizenship, democratic engagement and global understanding at the heart of school life, a powerful endorsement of belonging and brilliance which is the hallmark of our school. And we didn't stop there...

Opening the World: A Landmark Trip Abroad

Hot on the heels of this recognition came another milestone moment: our first-ever international school trip. For many students, this marked their first experience of travelling abroad with their peers.



European Parliament

Barcelona



EKC
Sheppey
Secondary

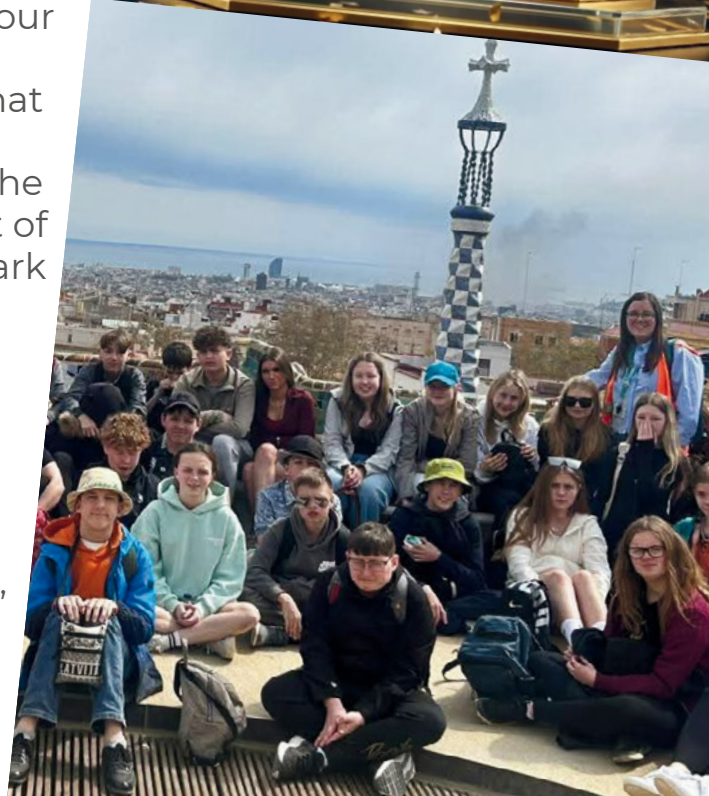
2026

EKC
Sheppey
Secondary

**KENT EDUCATION
AWARDS**

EVERY ROLE, EVERY SCHOOL, EVERY DAY

AWARD WINNERS





Sharing the journey, the learning, and the adventure – from navigating airports to experiencing a new culture side by side - helped build confidence, broaden horizons, and create memories that will stay with them for life.

Experiences like this go far beyond travel. They reflect our commitment to creating shared opportunities that bring young people together, strengthen community, and help every student see the wider world open up before them.

Doing What We Love and Loving What We Do! - Kent Team of the Year Winners at the Kent Education Awards 2026

EKCSS was proud to see its staff celebrated at the Kent Education Awards in May. From 1800 nominations, we stood shoulder to shoulder with 47 fellow winners from across the county in recognition of outstanding professional practice and impact. Prouder still, in addition to winning Team of the Year - Secondary, we took home the prize **Kent Team of the Year!**

County-wide recognition in just our second year marks an important milestone and a proud moment for our school and our community.

Looking Ahead

For a school just two years into its journey, these achievements speak volumes. They reflect a community pulling in the same direction: students who rise to opportunity, staff who believe deeply in what's possible, and families who place their trust in us. With the momentum behind the school, we are definitely livin' la vida loca – perhaps inspired by our recent Spanish adventure – and in the very best sense of the phrase.



**CALLING ALL SWALE
BOROUGH RESIDENTS...
THE TIME HAS COME!**

We want to help you save your pennies and reduce food waste together *drum roll* introducing...

THE FOOD CADDY!



Your caddy will help you to realise just how much food your household throws away, it may even make you reconsider items in your weekly food shop that don't get eaten! That collection of yoghurts nobody eats. Those bananas that have turned – yes you can only use making banana bread as an excuse for so long! It's all money going straight in the bin!

Most households not already using their caddy don't realise how much of their food is being wasted. Using a food caddy not only means you are doing your part environmentally – it also means you will end up saving money, as well as space and smells in your green bin!

To help residents we've been stickering refuse bins, giving out information leaflets and handing out some free food caddy liners.

**£40/WEEK OF FOOD
WASTED PER HOUSEHOLD**



**1 IN 3 FOOD
PURCHASES ARE
THROWN AWAY**

**70KG WASTED PER PERSON
EACH YEAR (140 MEALS)**



Scan here

If you want to start saving money- you can order your free food waste bin and kitchen caddy online at swale.gov.uk/oab or scan the QR code.

GARDEN WASTE BECOMING A PAIN IN THE GRASS?



SIGN UP FOR FORTNIGHTLY GARDEN WASTE COLLECTIONS – JUST £62/YEAR.

**IF YOU NEED A NEW BIN, WE DELIVER IT TO
YOUR DOOR FOR A ONE-OFF £10 SETUP CHARGE.**



Our collection service is a simple way to keep your garden tidy all year round. By subscribing to our garden waste service you will:

- ☒ Receive a 240-litre bin to hold all your grass cuttings, leaves, weeds, prunings and small branches
- ☒ Save yourself time and fuel in tip runs – up to 25 collections annually
- ☒ Have a cleaner car – no more muddy boots or messy bags
- ☒ Be doing your part for the environment – your garden waste is turned into high quality compost



Scan here

If you need another garden waste bin- you can subscribe for an additional one or if you already have one- don't forget to renew!

**IF YOU DON'T
HAVE ACCESS TO A
CAR – WE COLLECT.**

**IF YOU DON'T
WANT TO SPEND
WEEKENDS
WAITING AT THE
TIP – WE SAVE
YOU THE TRIP.**

Whether you're a keen gardener or simply looking for an easier way to manage your garden waste, subscribing to our garden waste collections makes garden maintenance fuss free!



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING

We know that sometimes recycling can be confusing, but it's important that only items that can be recycled are put into your blue recycling bin. One non-recyclable item can contaminate a whole lorry load full of good clean recycling! Every rejected recycling load costs us all around £2,000 more in disposal fees.

Some of the common contaminants found that don't belong in your blue bin are:

Black sacks the best option is to shake your recycling out into your blue bin. This not only makes recycling easier, but it can also save you money as you won't need to buy bin bags! But, if you do choose to use bags for your recycling bin, please make sure they are clear (not white) so that the contents are visible.

Food waste if you have any food waste, it should go into your food waste bin. If you don't have one yet, get your free caddy here: swale.gov.uk/oab

Nappies please don't place nappies or sanitary items in your blue bin, they can't be recycled. Instead put them into your green household waste bin.

Garden waste while composting at home is great for the environment, garden waste can quickly become unmanageable. You might want to consider our garden waste collection service. By subscribing you'll receive a 240-litre brown bin for all you garden waste and get fortnightly collections. Order one here: swale.gov.uk/oab



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS THAT CAN BE RECYCLED IN YOUR BLUE BIN ARE:

- food & drink cans
- mixed paper and cardboard
- liquid cartons
- plastic bottles pots and trays
- mixed glass bottles and jars (not broken lightbulbs or drinking glasses)
- aluminium foils & trays
- empty aerosols

Please continue to keep your recycling clean and loose, to help our crews identify which bins can't be collected and saves spoiling a whole lorry load of good recycling.



If you're unsure which items belong in which bin, check out our handy waste tool: swale.gov.uk/what-goes-in-my-bin



Pride in Place chair appointed!

Local resident Garry Ratcliffe has been appointed to lead a £20 million investment into Sheppey East as chair of the new Pride in Place neighbourhood board.

This comes after a competitive search for candidates to chair the new board and was agreed by Swale Borough Council and Kevin McKenna MP.

The Government's Pride in Place Programme is investing the money to improve the local area and tackle long-standing issues over the next ten years.

Garry is a local resident who understands the bigger picture of the area's challenges and opportunities.

His previous roles have prepared him to bring a wide range of people together and attract the investment needed to make a positive impact.

Co-founder of the Island-based charity Curly's Farm and School, Garry brings strong local connections and leadership experience.

Garry Ratcliffe, the chair of the Sheppey East neighbourhood board, said:

"It is an honour and a privilege to have been chosen to lead this incredible project, helping to shape the investment of this much-needed funding into an area I deeply care about.

"The next step is to form the board who, alongside the MP, Kevin McKenna, and myself will develop an action plan for the next ten years, identifying what locals truly want to see improved and how we can get the most value out of this money."

The £20 million fund will support projects that local people want to see from March 2027 onwards.

The community will decide how to spend it, with potential projects improving transport, safety, education, jobs, health, high streets, or local heritage. It is designed to fund fresh ideas and provides extra money on top of existing public service funding for a historically overlooked area.

Alongside this ten-year project, we also secured £1.5 million in capital funding for immediate improvements across the borough.

We are using this money to upgrade Sittingbourne High Street, including the recent toilet refurbishment, build a new changing village for Faversham Pools, and make further improvements to Beachfields in Sheerness, as well as other local improvement schemes.



To find out more, visit swale.gov.uk/pip



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:

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



visitswale



VisitSwale

Quiz Night hosted by The Quiz People

The Light, Sittingbourne

Tuesday 4 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 5 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

Pirate and mermaid picnic and film

Criterion Blue Town, Sheerness

Wednesday 5 August, 11am

Follow the treasure map, have lunch with fellow pirates and mermaids & watch a themed film. Tickets are £10.60 per child. To book visit thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/pirate-and-mermaid-picnic-and-film

Family Jam-Boree day

Front Brents, Faversham

Wednesday 12 August, 10am - 2pm

After last year's popular Faversham Family Jamboree Days, they are back for another fun-filled celebration! This year promises lots of free activities for families to enjoy together. Don't miss out on the Teddy Bears' Picnic—bring your favourite teddy bear and join in the fun, games, and a lovely family picnic in the beautiful outdoors.

Summer events in Swale

A New Day Festival

Mount Ephraim Gardens

Friday 21 – Sunday 23
August

A New Day Festival is a relaxed, three-day boutique music festival set in the beautiful ornamental gardens of Mount Ephraim. It celebrates prog-rock, classic rock, blues, roots, craft stalls, delicious food and excellent ales, all within the scenic Kent countryside — perfect for music lovers and social gatherings in a unique garden setting.

For tickets, head to
anewdayfestival.com/tickets

Monthly Board Game Night

The Treehouse, The Light,
Sittingbourne

Thursday 4 September

Join in the monthly board game night - every first and third Thursday of the month in The Treehouse. Hosted by Milton Hundred War Games Club, the evening includes an array of board games - from classic favourites to strategy games.

Faversham Hop Festival 2025

Faversham

Saturday 5 –
Sunday 6 September

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



New Foxtrot Serenaders present Ready, Steady Go!

Saturday 19 September,
7.30pm

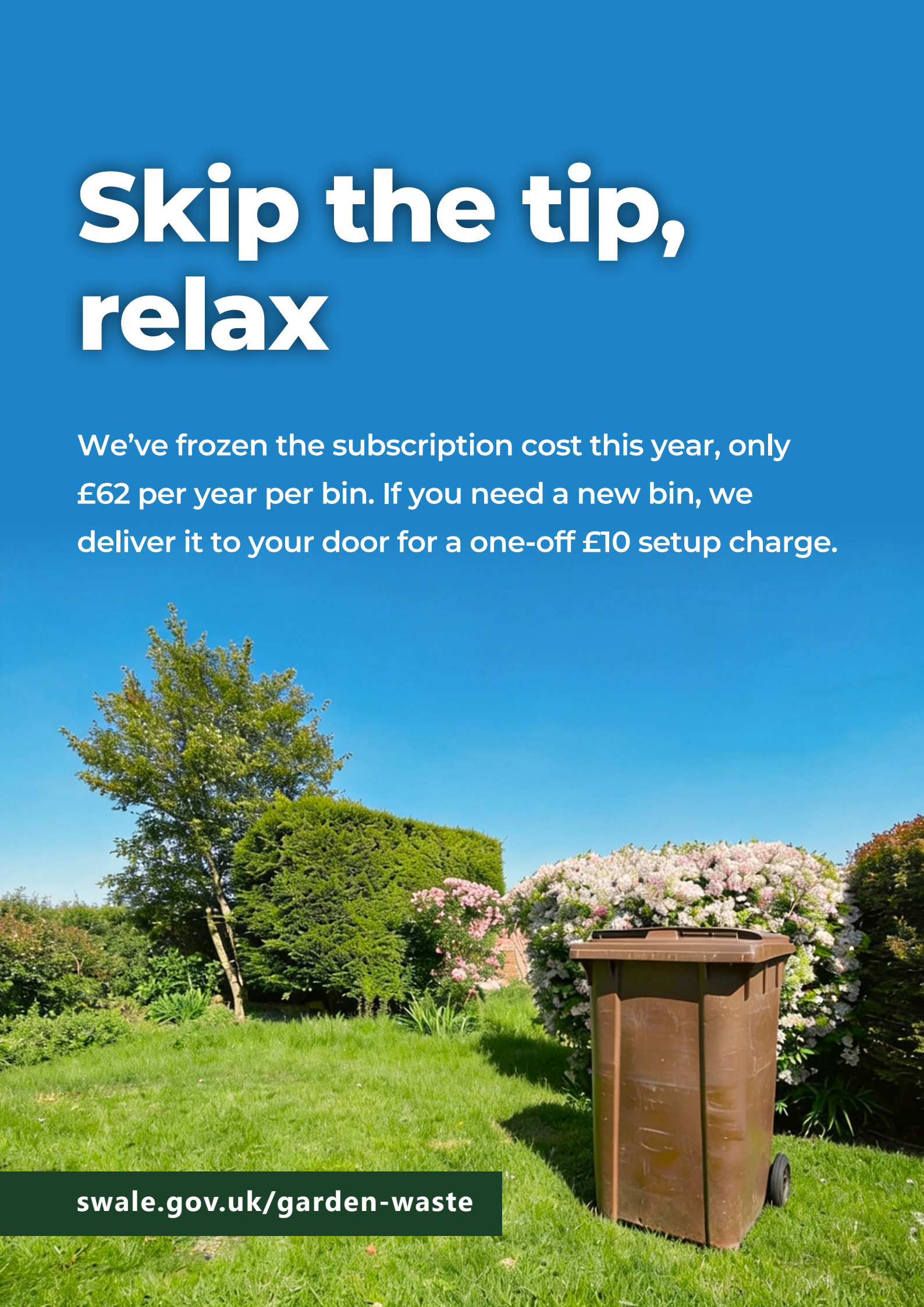
Avenue Theatre,
Sittingbourne

New Foxtrot Serenaders Show Band return to the theatre with Ready, Steady, Go!. Featuring the music of Louis Prima, Bobby Darin, The Platters, Nat King Cole, Chubby Checker, The Four Seasons, Dusty Springfield, The Beatles, The Chordettes, Matt Munro and many more!

For more information and for tickets, head to
avenuetheatre.co.uk

Skip the tip, relax

We've frozen the subscription cost this year, only £62 per year per bin. If you need a new bin, we deliver it to your door for a one-off £10 setup charge.

A brown garden waste bin is positioned on a green lawn. In the background, there are various green plants, a large tree, and a flowering bush with pink blossoms. The sky is clear and blue.

swale.gov.uk/garden-waste