

Autumn 2015

inside Swale

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue

Green flag for Oare

Enjoy Autumn fun safely

Focus on Staying Put service

Taking action on littering and dog fouling



Make sure you can vote – see page 6



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Making Swale a better place

Join the Resolution

Achieve your fitness goals at
Swale Leisure Centres

WITH YOUR
FREE
7 DAY
PASS

Kickstart your exercise regime
this Autumn and get fit

MEMBERSHIP
FROM
£14.95**
PER MONTH

BRAND NEW EQUIPMENT
WITH INTERNET
CONNECTED
MULTIMEDIA CONSOLES

NEW RESISTANCE AND
STRENGTH TRAINING
EQUIPMENT AT
SWALLOWS LEISURE
CENTRE

NEW SPIN BIKES AT
SHEPPEY LEISURE
COMPLEX

Download your free 7 day pass today at:
swaleleisure.com/freepass
Includes: Gym, Swim & Classes!

For full details visit: swaleleisure.com

Sheppey Leisure Complex
Tel: 01795 668 061

Swallows Leisure Centre
Tel: 01795 420 420



SHARE WITH FRIENDS



GymIn Swale
SwimIn Swale



@GymInSwale
@SwimInSwale

A PART OF

Neighbourhood



*One Pass per person, adults only. Offer for new customers only (those not set-up on Legend, our Customer Management software). Pass valid until 15th November 2015. Subject to availability. **Relates to an off-peak 12 month gym and swim contract at Sheppey Leisure Complex. Other memberships also available, see online for details.



Contents

- ▶ **News.....4**
- ▶ **A Borough to be proud of 9**
- ▶ **A Community to be proud of 16**
- ▶ **A Council to be proud of22**
- ▶ **Councillors30-31**

Contact us

Swale Borough Council

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

website: www.swale.gov.uk

email: csc@swale.gov.uk

phone: **01795 417 850**

facebook: **Swale Borough Council**

twitter: **@SwaleCouncil**



Do you have difficulty in understanding this magazine? Do you need it in Braille, large print or on audio CD? For translations or interpretations contact us on **01795 417 850** or csc@swale.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

Inside Swale is written and designed by Swale Borough Council's Communications and Marketing Team and distributed to 59,000+ homes.

For advertising or editorial

email: insideswale@swale.gov.uk

Cover photo: Faversham Hop Festival 2015

Swale Borough Council neither endorse or accept any liability for representations made by its advertisers.

Welcome to the autumn edition of Inside Swale



*Andrew Bowles,
Leader, Swale
Borough Council*

As the nights are getting longer, and the summer – such as it was – fades into memory, it's gratifying to look back on the last few months and see what has been going on in the area.

From local fetes to big ticket events like the Hop Festival - it's been wonderful to see so many people enjoying events that Swale has to offer, and helping to boost the local economy.

We're continuing to support successful local businesses – such as the award-winning AbBaltis – so they can help create jobs and opportunities for local people, now and in the future.

Crucial to this continued success will be the new Local Plan, which sets out our vision for future development across the Borough. As it stands, we face some tough decisions about the number of new homes we will have to allow, but if we don't make them, we risk losing the ability to have a say on what is built and where.

At the Council we've been working hard to improve what we do for you - improving waiting times at Council offices, tackling litter and dog fouling, and trying to encourage more recycling. Not only do these measures make the Borough a better place, but they help save us money, which in turn keeps your council tax bill down.

We've also been listening to your views on this magazine. Responses have been extremely positive, but there are lots of ideas on how we can improve and you will see a number of changes over the next few editions.

► Kemsley clean-up

Residents in Kemsley helped clean up their neighbourhood as part of a community litter pick event.

The event, organised by the Council with funding from Cllr Sue Gent's Members Localism Grant, was also supported by AmicusHorizon.

The day was a chance for residents to work with the Council to clear up litter and help deter fly-tipping, improving the appearance of the area. The Neighbourhood Furniture Store also attended to receive any recyclable furniture.



Cllr Sue Gent and Tracy Moss from AmicusHorizon helping with the clean-up

Cllr Sue Gent, the Ward Councillor who helped organise the clean-up, said: "We get a lot of complaints about fly-tipping and litter in Kemsley, but even though we have regular scheduled cleaning, some members of the public continue to litter the area.

"By holding this clean up, I hope we can encourage local people to help us keep the streets litter-free and encourage neighbours and friends to help keep it that way."

► Kent's first cycling pub

The Freewheel Public House in Graveney is not just an inviting pit stop for cyclists, walkers and locals to re-fuel, but also has a fully-equipped workshop attached for both running repairs and scheduled servicing for all types of bicycle.

The Freewheel is the brainchild of Adrian Oliver, founder of Kent-based CyclingAge, the organisation that delivers Bikeability for children in schools around Kent and adult cycling training. Adrian said "There are some great places for cyclists to stop around the county. However, I wanted to create a real oasis for them, a place they'd be welcome and where they can park their cycles with confidence, re-hydrate, recover and refresh."

Situated just two minutes from National Cycle Route 1 which runs from Dover, through Kent, and then north to Shetland, it is the perfect place for people to either stop off or start a day's riding or walking. The first of its kind in Kent, The Freewheel offers both locally sourced food and drink and onsite expertise in bicycle repairs and maintenance.

The pub is keen to promote cycling in the area, and supports local Sky Rides that encourage more people to get out on two wheels.

To find out more, visit their Facebook page [facebook.com/thefreewheelgraveney](https://www.facebook.com/thefreewheelgraveney) or follow them on Twitter [@thefreewheelpub](https://twitter.com/thefreewheelpub)

▶ Green Flag success for Oare



Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park is one of the very best in the UK – and that’s official!

The Country Park was among a record-breaking 1,582 parks and green spaces that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

The award recognises and rewards the best parks and green spaces across the country. A Green Flag flying overhead is a sign to the public that the space boasts the highest possible standards, is beautifully maintained, and has excellent facilities.



Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environmental and Rural Affairs at the Council, said: “We are absolutely delighted to once again receive a Green Flag Award from Keep Britain Tidy. This award recognises and highlights that local people are benefitting from a green space of the very highest quality.”

The Park has a rich variety of habitats including woodland, wetlands and open glades, meaning that the site is a wonderful place to discover wildlife. Birds, bats, amphibians and much more call this place home, and make the Country Park a perfect walk or cycle ride.

Paul Jessett, Chairman of the Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works, said: “We have worked hard in partnership with the Council to achieve this award, and see it as recognition for our efforts. We are a small group of volunteers who meet monthly and are passionate about the site, and we are always looking for new members.”

To get involved with the friends group, visit www.friendsofzaregunpowderworks.co.uk

► Make sure you can vote

Would-be voters are being urged to make sure they've responded to their Household Enquiry Form. This is part of Swale's annual canvass to make sure the electoral register is up to date, and encourage people who aren't on there to get registered.

With the Police and Crime Commissioner election taking place across Kent in May 2016, this is a chance for residents to make sure that they will be able to vote.

So far, 74% of local households have confirmed their details. The Council will be carrying out house visits to those who have yet to respond, which does cost Council tax payers money.

To keep the costs down, residents are being encouraged to use one of several quick and easy ways to respond:

- Complete the form online at www.elecreg.co.uk/swale (using the security codes on the form sent to you)
- Call **0808 284 1523** (freephone) to confirm the details are correct (including the reason why no one is eligible to register) using the security codes on the form
- Complete the form and return it in the prepaid envelope supplied
- Telephone our Customer Services Team using the number at the top of the letter

For more information visit www.swale.gov.uk/all-about-voting or call **01795 417 316**

► Joe's sailing to success



A former Sheppey sea cadet is preparing to qualify as Chief Mate for an international shipping company.

In 2005, Joe Bowry was appointed the honorary role of the Mayor of Swale's cadet, and this summer was reunited with the former Mayor, Cllr Bryan Mulhern, to catch up on old times.

In last decade, Joe won a merchant navy cadetship which paid for his degree in navigation and maritime science at the University of Plymouth. In 2013 he started working as a seismic observer/field technician, before quickly moving onto general cargo ships as a qualified officer of the watch. He is now a senior third officer at Holland America Line, and studying to qualify as Chief Mate.



Cllr Mulhern said: "Joe is a real inspiration to other local young people. Thanks to the Sea Cadets, and his own hard work and determination, he's carving out an exciting career that is taking him around the world."

Joe said: "I would like to say a huge thank you to the instructors of the marine society and sea cadets, specifically those instructors at the Sheppey sea cadet unit. Their hard work and dedication helps transform young people's lives."

► Council offices grow wild



Above: Leigh Stone with team members during construction

Right: Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley with Hannah Parathian, Jamie Flaherty and team members at the installation of the project at Swale House.

A living wall, packed with herbs, flowers and wildlife-friendly plants, has been installed on the Council's offices in Sittingbourne, to the left of the main entrance in Crown Quay Lane.

The Eco Vertical Grow Wild Living Mural project is run by the Skillnet Group, which supports people with learning difficulties and disabilities with skills training.

The project received funding from Grow Wild UK (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew), and has been designed and built at Sittingbourne's Eco Shed, with help from Swale School's Project and Kent Wildlife Trust.

Skillnet users have made the wooden frame for the planter from recycled materials, and many of the plants have been grown at the Bob Fowler Community Allotment in Milton Regis.

The planter features a bird feeder, wooden insect houses, and hanging baskets containing vegetables and herbs for passers-by to pick and enjoy.



Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Cabinet Member for Finance at the Council, said: "The planter is a great addition to the building, and really brightens up the area. I hope all those involved in the project take pride in seeing the fruits of their work whenever they go past."

Rosemary Walker, one of the 25 different people who worked on the project, said: "I've never made anything before I came to the Eco Shed. The project has been a great challenge to learn to make new things."

To find out more about the Skillnet Group, visit www.skillnetgroup.co.uk
For more information about The Eco-Vertical Project visit their Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Eco-Vertical-Grow-Wild-project

Learn a Life Skill

Enrol now for Swimming Lessons

at Swallows Leisure Centre and Sheppey Leisure Complex



JOIN IN
FROM JUST
£17.95
PER MONTH*

All our courses follow the ASA National Plan for Teaching Swimming, with qualified instructors. Speak to a swimming co-ordinator today to find out more.

For full details of all facilities, activities available and to join online visit:

www.swaleleisure.com

Swallows Leisure Centre
Central Avenue
Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NT
Tel: 01795 420 420

Sheppey Leisure Complex
Off the Broadway
Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HH
Tel: 01795 668 652

INCLUDES
UNLIMITED
FREE
SWIMMING*

the asa
swim for life

Swale
COMMUNITY LEISURE LTD

SHARE WITH FRIENDS



SwimIn Swale



@SwimInSwale

A PART OF

Neighbourhood
Life

*Price quoted and Unlimited Free Swimming is for 12 months on a direct debit scheme. Other options available, see website for details. Terms and conditions apply.

▶ Cinema signs up

The regeneration of Sittingbourne Town Centre has passed a significant milestone as a leading cinema operator signed an agreement with the Spirit of Sittingbourne consortium. This is an important step that outlines the principles for a final contract, and means the seven screen cinema is a step closer.

Work on the cinema site is due to start in the spring, with a proposed opening in summer 2017. This first stage will also see the start of road improvement works and a 308 space multi-storey car park being built.

Once completed, the Spirit of Sittingbourne will also deliver 215 residential apartments, 29,000 sq. ft. of restaurant space, 34,000 sq. ft. of large format retail, a new public square, and a range of road improvements around Sittingbourne's railway station.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council, said: "This is an important step in delivering the regeneration of the Town Centre that we have all been waiting for.

"The cinema underpins the whole development, so having this agreement is great news, and we look forward to announcing the operator, and the associated retail and restaurants that will be opening in the Town, when the final terms are agreed."

For more information visit: www.spiritofsittingbourne.com

▶ Leader the way forward with rural grants

Rural businesses and organisations across Swale are being encouraged to apply for funding to boost rural employment. The Leader scheme is one element of the Rural Development Programme for England.

The funding is locally controlled, with decisions about which projects are funded being made by the Local Action Group (LAG) for the Leader area. Swale falls into two LAG areas – Kent Downs and Marshes Leader, and the East Kent Leader – that oversee a total funding pot worth almost £3.5 million.

Grants are available to projects that will help provide jobs and growth for the rural economy. Funding is available to farmers, foresters, other local businesses, and rural communities.

Projects that have already received funding include:

- the development of the Faversham Food Trails;
- a series of artist-led commissions to improve signage in Leysdown;
- conversion of a redundant barn into three bed holiday let accommodation; and
- measures to reduce the cost of growing fruit locally.

For information about applying for a grant contact the programme manager Huw.jarvis@kent.gov.uk or **03000 417 104**.

▶ Local Plan moving forward

Plans for future development across the Borough are being scrutinised by a Government inspector next month.

Swale Council's Local Plan, *Bearing Fruits*, looks at jobs, homes, schools, shops, open space, transport, and other services, as well as how much and where development might take place until 2031.

Last year the Council ran a consultation on the plans, and submitted the Plan to the Planning Inspectorate – the body responsible for approving the plans – in April this year.

The original hearing was scheduled for September, but the inspector asked for further work to be carried out around the number of homes the plan needs to identify. *Bearing Fruits* proposed 540 new homes being built every year, which the inspector feels may be too low given the original housing need forecast of 740.

Cllr Gerry Lewin, Cabinet Member for Planning at the Council, said: "*Bearing Fruits* included the number of new homes we felt were appropriate for the Borough. We believe that the local infrastructure such as roads, schools and health services – which we have no control over – would be unable to cope with much more without significant investment from outside bodies. Additionally, the performance of the local housing market in recent years also suggested higher targets were unrealistic."

The inspector is expected to ask the Council to identify additional sites to meet a higher target, which would need to be consulted on before the inspector puts together a final report which will recommend whether the Plan can be adopted.

Cllr Lewin continued: "The Local Plan can't be adopted until the planning inspector approves it as sound, and as it stands that is unlikely to happen without additional sites being identified for more homes. Without these, we'll have no way of preventing development in other areas. We are likely to be requested to add new sites to the Plan that we currently don't feel are appropriate. Whilst this will involve difficult decisions, we would at least have better control over where and what was being built.

"Unless we grasp this nettle, and show that we can meet the inspector's required housing land supply, the alternative is that developers will be able to justify building whatever they want on sites we consider are unsuitable."

The inspector's examination will take place on 17-19 November; 24-26 November and 15-17 December. During this, the inspector will be assessing what the housing target should be within the Plan, and will invite initial discussions on the potential for additional sites to come forward to meet a potential new housing target. It is expected that the inspector will issue an interim report that will indicate what the housing target should be, and will ask the Council to consult on the additional sites that would be required to meet that revised target. The examination is likely to be reconvened in the summer, prior to the Inspector's final report being written.

To find out more visit www.swale.gov.uk/local-plan-submission-and-examination

▶ Taking action on littering and dog fouling

Two pilot schemes to tackle litter and dog-fouling across the Borough are proving to be a success.

One scheme has seen dedicated officers brought in to target the Borough's litter hot spots, handing out fixed penalty notices of up to £80 to people caught dropping litter or not cleaning up after their dogs.

This pilot is funded mainly through the income from the penalty notices, with the Council paying the prosecution costs. Since it began in March, more than 800 fines have issued to litterers and inconsiderate dog owners.



Cllr David Simmons (centre) with Cllr Mike Henderson, local dog walker Emma Lee-Jarman with Doug her dog (left), and Dog Warden, Tim Oxley (right) at Oare Gunpowder Works.

A second scheme has seen five TiksPac stations put up at popular public walking routes across the Borough, providing owners with free dog waste bags to pick up their pets' mess.

These stations are among the first in the country, having been developed in Scandinavia with much success. If the trial goes well, further stations could be rolled out across the Borough. These would be supported by businesses advertising on the stations, which could not only bring them increased exposure, but demonstrate their support for improving the local environment.

Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs at the Council, said: "These schemes are a response to local people's concerns and, if they prove to be successful, we will look to either continue or expand them across the Borough.

"We already spend around £850,000 a year on street cleaning, which is a huge amount of money for picking up other people's mess. Hopefully these schemes will encourage people to behave more responsibly, and help bring this bill down."

To find out more about what the Council is doing to tackle litter across the Borough, visit www.swale.gov.uk/litter or to report an issue www.swale.gov.uk/doitonline

Local Business receives Queen's Award

A Sittingbourne based biotechnology business has received royal recognition for their success in international trade.



AbBaltis, based in Kent Science Park, received the most prestigious business awards in the country earlier this year, and can now use the Queen's Award emblem in advertising, marketing, and on packaging for five years.

The firm specialises in supplying research-ready blood to the drug industry to test for diseases in the development of vaccinations.



Formed in 2010 by managing director Giedre Brandao, the company, which employs seven people, was praised for the speed it delivers its perishable product and for its "outstanding overseas sales growth" in the last three years.

Giedre said: "We are all delighted and humbled to be amongst this year's winners of The Queen's Awards for

Enterprise. The award will certainly boost our company's profile and help us serve even more international customers."

Congratulating the firm on their success, Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration at the Council, said: "AbBaltis are a wonderful example of a local successful high tech company that is committed to the area. Not only do they provide jobs, but they work hard to encourage enthusiasm in science among local young people, which will help inspire them to work in the sector."

The company has two work experience students working in the lab, a University of Kent student completing her work placement year with the firm, and two new staff members joining them.

To find out more, visit www.abbaltis.com

▶ New Director to deliver regeneration for Swale

Swale Borough Council's new Regeneration Director will be bringing more than 25 years' experience to help deliver the Council's ambitious regeneration plans for the area.

Kathryn Carr, currently Head of Strategic Development and Regeneration at Bolton MBC, has been appointed as the Council's new Director of Regeneration, taking over from Pete Raine when he retires at the end of October.

Being at the forefront of delivering economic and social development in Greater Manchester for more than 20 years in a variety of regeneration-led roles will enable her to make a significant contribution to further developing and delivering the Council's ambitious regeneration agenda.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration at the Council, said: "This is a crucial role for the Borough, and I was delighted to see it attracted such a strong field of candidates from across the country.

"I know that Kathryn's considerable experience will ensure continued great leadership at the heart of delivering economic growth for the Borough."

Kathryn said: "Swale has much to offer and I've been impressed by the huge amount of work underway to deliver the Council's powerful vision for maximising its opportunities for the benefit of local communities. Swale is on an exciting regeneration journey and I'm really looking forward to working with the team on unlocking its full potential to create an even better place for residents, workers and visitors."



Kent College
Canterbury

Nursery, Infant & Junior School
01227 762436
CT2 9AQ

RATED ★★★★★
SCHOOL GUIDE



So many opportunities in one place!

At Kent College our students enjoy idyllic surroundings

Do come and see us, every day is open day!

Digital hearing technology on your door step



- Free hearing tests
- Home visiting service
- Friendly personal attention
- 30 day money back guarantee
- Special offers for over 50's readers

Why settle for anything less?



Call: **01795 511195**
for a no obligation appointment.
www.21stcenturyhearing.com

abilityplus



Stairlifts
Glide upstairs with ease...

FREE SURVEY & QUOTE
Tel: 01795 228 386

Stairlift servicing available

everything for more ability in life



Visit or contact your local store: **Sheerness**
11-13 Russell St, ME12 7PL Tel: 01795 228 386



AGE UK FAVERSHAM & SITTINGBOURNE

Love later life

Did you know that Age UK offers services to anyone over the age of 50 and that we have a wide range of services in your area?

Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne provides a range of services offering good quality, consistent care, impartial or confidential support to help people remain safe and independent in their own homes.

- Friendship and fun
- Befriending
- Information, Advice and Advocacy
- Freshly cooked lunches delivered to you
- Day care (including transport)
- Specialist dementia support and COGs club
- Carer support for those looking after people living with dementia
- Care Navigator – to help you by talking through any problems/issues you might have and to support you to find solutions and access services if needed
- Personal care in your home – we are CQC registered
- Bathing at home or in our centres
- Chiropody and foot care
- Independent Living Service – help with housework, shopping, trips out etc

To find out more or to access our services please call your local office
Open between 9am and 4pm

What our clients say about us:

"They were really there when we needed them"

"They give the upmost respect and dignity"

"They've been fantastic, nothing is too little or too much for them to do"

"I don't know what I would have done without them"

"They have been tremendous from the minute I picked up the phone to call"

Faversham
Tel: 01795 532766

Sittingbourne
Tel: 01795 477520
Charity number: 1152234

Teynham
Tel: 01795 521052

Support for superfast businesses

Local businesses are being urged to find out if they are eligible for up to £3,000 to get better broadband access.

Broadband Connection Vouchers are funded by the Government and administered by Kent County Council to help businesses in eligible areas install superfast broadband internet.

The grants are only available in certain areas, so firms need to check if they could benefit by simply visiting: www.connectionvouchers.co.uk and entering their postcode to see if they are eligible for up to £3,000.

Funding for the scheme is limited, and is available on a first come, first served basis, so any local businesses wanting to take advantage of the grants should apply now.

Find business premises at your fingertips

It's even easier for businesses to set up in Swale, thanks to the Council's business website www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk.

The website has been running for almost a year, providing information and advice to new and existing businesses. Recent changes to the site include a new commercial and industrial property register www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk/find-a-property. This features the latest properties available in Swale, and is updated by industry professionals.

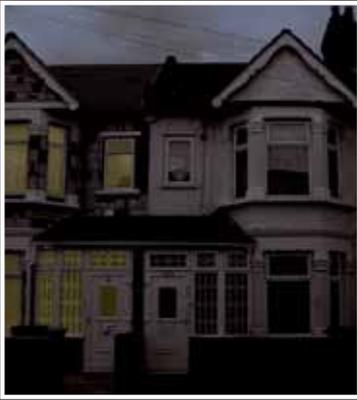
Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration at the Council, said: "The website's first year has been a tremendous start, and I'm proud of the help and support we've been able to provide to local businesses.

"The new property register is a great way for either local firms looking to expand, or those looking to move here to take advantage of what we have to offer and to find premises in the Borough."

To find out more visit www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk



▶ Dark nights



With the dark nights drawing in, Swale Community Safety Partnership is reminding people to make sure they don't make their homes a magnet for burglars.



Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health at the Council said: "No-one wants to be a victim of burglary, but there are a number of simple, practical measures you can take to prevent it happening to you."

By locking doors and windows and using timer switches for lights and radios your home can appear occupied, and help to deter thieves.

For a more cost effective and green deterrent, use low energy bulbs in your lamps with timers, and light individual rooms rather than hallways and landings.

Discarded boxes are a menu of what valuables you have in your home, so dispose of them carefully.

For more information please visit www.swale.gov.uk/crime-reduction-advice

▶ Help shape crime fighting priorities

Local residents can help shape how the Council, local police and their partners tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across the Borough.

The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) brings together the police, the Council, and other local agencies to work more effectively and efficiently to deal with crime and anti-social behaviour in Swale.

To help identify what areas people want them to focus on, the CSP wants people to let them know the issues that matter to them by completing a short survey.

Cllr Ken Pugh, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Health at the Council said: "The CSP has done a great deal of work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour across Swale, but there are always new issues that arise that affect different communities."

The survey is available to complete online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/6GKGVV3 and paper copies can be requested from csu@swale.gov.uk or **01795 417336**

The responses received are vital to help the CSP decide how to target resources to make Swale a safer place.

The deadline for responses is Friday, 30 October 2015.

▶ Enjoy Autumn fun safely

Autumn is the time for trick or treating and fireworks, but some people may be concerned about people coming to their door during Halloween - particularly after dark or late in the evening.

If you are worried, you don't have to answer the door. You can make this clear by displaying our 'No Trick or Treat flyer' which is available at <http://tiny.cc/notrickortreat>. If anyone calls at your door and their behaviour worries you, you can contact the appropriate agency on the



numbers below.

Fireworks can only be sold by registered sellers between 15 October and 10 November, in the run up to New Year's Day, and three days before Chinese New Year and Diwali.

It is illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on Bonfire Night, when the cut-off is midnight, and New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut-off is 1am.

To report any concerns or illegal activity, contact:

**In an emergency
dial 999**
**Police non-emergency
101**
**Swale Borough Council
01795 417 850**
**Kent Crimestoppers
0800 555 111**



“Sixth Form provision at Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey is tailored to students’ career aspirations and abilities.” Ofsted

High quality teaching, rated ‘good’ by Ofsted;

Wide choice of academic and vocational subjects;

Outstanding pastoral support and mentoring programmes;

Enhanced c.v. opportunities: work experience placements, student leadership; extensive community engagement programme.

“I am part of much more than just a school, I am part of a family”

Year 7 Student

SECONDARY TRANSFER 2016

OPEN EVENING, West Campus

Thursday 8 October , 5pm—8pm

Executive Principal Presentations: 5:10pm and 6:15pm



OPEN MORNING, West Campus

Thursday 15 October,

08:45—10:00am

Phone **01795 873591** to book a tour

Marine Parade, Sheerness, ME12 2BE

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

▶ Work begins on new community centre

Work is well underway for a new community centre in Sittingbourne

Work got underway on The Meads Community Centre in May, when trustees of the centre were joined by councillors and officers to turn the first turf for the project.

The single story community centre will include a community café, a hall for hire, lockable storage, and parking.

The building has been designed with the future in mind, and includes the potential for a nursery. This will become operational if a local provider and further funding becomes available.

Keely Magee, Chair of the Meads Community Centre Trust, said: “It’s has taken a long time to get here, and we are so pleased to finally see the work getting underway.



Cllr Koffi-Williams with Cllr James Hunt with Keely Magee and other members of the Meads Community Centre Trust.

“This will be a real asset for the whole community, and we can’t wait to see how residents of The Meads will take the building to their heart and shape its future use.

“The funding granted to date is only sufficient for the building itself. This means our budget falls short of many essential

fixtures and fittings. We are urgently seeking additional funding and local people who can offer their time and skills.”

Cllr Samuel Koffi-Williams, Deputy Cabinet Member for Localism at the Council, said: “It’s great to see how this scheme has taken shape, and really been driven by the local community.

“This bodes well for the future, as the trustees have been determined from the start that the Centre must be a genuine asset for the community if it is to succeed.

“Thanks to all their hard work, I am convinced it will!”

Funding for the Community Centre comes from the Section 106 funding provided by the housing developers as part of the planning permission for the estate.

Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

SATEDA



Swale Action To
End Domestic Abuse

**International Day
for the Elimination
of Violence against
Women and Girls**

WEAR SOMETHING

ORANGE

**AND HELP MAKE
A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

on Wednesday 25 November 2015
and donate what you can afford

This is to raise money for SATEDA to offer more support for women
and girls affected by domestic violence such as more Freedom
Programmes/preventative programmes in schools, or the One Stop Shop

www.justgiving.com/sateda

**Swale Community
Safety Unit**



▶ Booking system cuts queues

New ways of managing council tax and housing benefits have seen visits to Council offices fall by more than 1,000 a month.

The reduction in queues and waiting times for residents is due to a new appointment-only system to help people with queries about housing benefit and council tax.

In a further move to simplify benefits claims, the Council are now able to accept supporting documents electronically. This means scanned images, or pictures of original documents, can be sent directly to the Council rather than having to take them in to the Council offices.

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Cabinet Member for Finance at the Council, said: "Not only are we making it easier for people to access services conveniently online, we're finding that when people call us to book an appointment, our advisors can often resolve the issue while the person is on the phone, reducing the need for a visit."

Appointments can be booked by visiting www.swale.gov.uk/book-an-appointment or by calling **01795 417 555** for benefits or **01795 417 272** for council tax.

To find out more about housing benefit and council tax support, or to make a claim online, go to www.swale.gov.uk/ctax-support-scheme

▶ You said, we listened



One of the Shepherd Huts on Elmley National Nature Reserve

The summer edition of Inside Swale asked you, our readers, for your thoughts about the magazine.

Thank you to all those who took the time to respond with feedback and ideas, we really appreciate it.

Some highlights from the responses include:

- nearly three quarters of you read the whole magazine;
- more than 80 per cent think it is good or very good at providing useful information; and
- the top feature you want to see included is events listings.

This, and all the other feedback we received, is being used to plan improvements to the magazine over the next few editions.

Respondents were asked if they wanted to be entered into a prize draw to win a night's glamping in the luxurious shepherd's huts in Elmley National Nature Reserve. The winner, Mrs A Salt was drawn out of the hat by the Council's Chief Executive, Abdool Kara.

▶ Help on hand when needed most

Staying Put offers advice, support and help to the elderly and other vulnerable groups who are owner occupiers or private tenants and who need practical assistance to repair, adapt or improve their homes.

For local residents who need help with those minor jobs around the home that would prevent a fall or are a safety issue, the handyperson service may be able to help free of charge if identified on a health and safety check (see opposite). For other works a small fee will be charged.

Last year, 327 jobs were carried out that would have prevented a fall. The kinds of work carried out include:

Home adaptations - repairing and installing grab rails and key safes

Home repairs - replacing glass (excluding double glazed) fitting draught excluders, repairing doors/banisters, replacing curtain rails and 'ease doors'

Making the home safe – replacing locks, installing spy holes and door chains

Making the home secure – fitting stair gates, smoke detectors, light bulbs, hinges and child locks to cupboards

To find out more, visit www.swale.gov.uk/staying-put
email stayingputall@swale.gov.uk
or call **01795 417 131**

▶ Free health and safety checks



Cllr John Wright

To help prevent falls, the Staying Put service carry out free home safety checks for people aged over 60.

Cllr John Wright, Cabinet Member for Housing at the Council, said: "People aged 65 and older have the highest risk of falling, with 30 per cent of people older than 65, and 50 per cent of people older than 80, falling at least once a year.

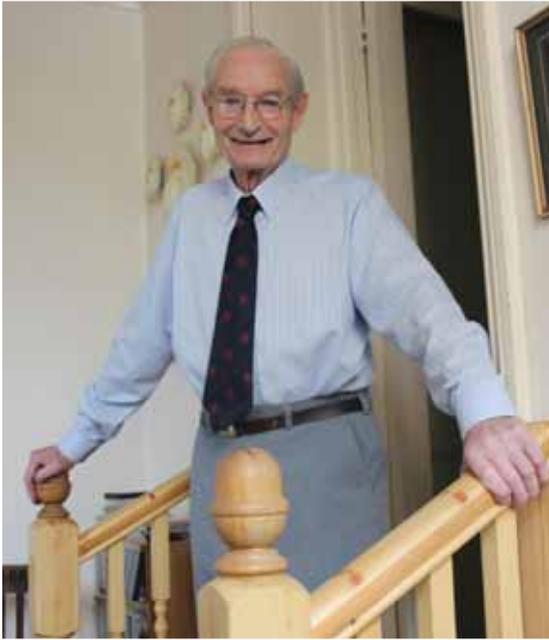
"As well as injuries from the fall itself, people who fall can also suffer psychological problems, such as a loss of confidence and fear of falling again, loss of mobility, an increase in dependency, hypothermia, pressure-related injuries, and infection."

The service carries out a home visit to identify any measures that could be taken to help prevent a fall, such as repairing banisters or stairs, installing grab rails, or fixing loose carpet. Funding is available from the local health authority for the handyperson to carry out works that would help prevent a fall.

In the last year, 145 checks took place, and 71 per cent of these found work that needed doing to help prevent a fall.

To book a free home check, or to find out more, visit www.swale.gov.uk/staying-put
email stayingputall@swale.gov.uk or call **01795 417 131**.

► Peter's staying put!



When 89 year old Peter Morgan came home from doing some work for a friend, he considered leaving his tools by the door and making himself a drink.

But the former Westlands School teacher thought it better to put them away properly, so took them down to the cellar of his Sittingbourne home.

As he was about to make his way back up the stairs, he blacked out, fell, and in his own words: "lost six months of my life."



Staying Put
improve your home, health and life

The former Mayor had been active in a number of local groups, but the damage to his lower vertebrae from the fall meant he was unable to carry on his duties as before.

As well as the ten week stay in hospital, he spent months regaining the ability to walk without a frame, and even getting around the Victorian home he has lived in for 60 years was a struggle.

The Council's Staying Put service got involved, and after an initial assessment, arranged for a short flight of stairs with grab rails to be installed in his home, replacing two steep and dangerous steps between the living area and kitchen.

"It's wonderful," he said. "They looked at my existing staircase, and made sure the banister and spindles matched the rest of the house. They really do enable me to get up to the hallway safer now."

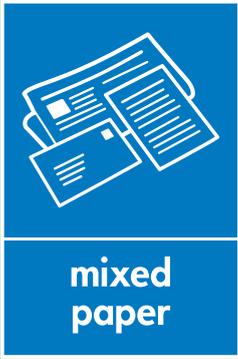
"They also refitted my bathroom door so it opens outwards in case I have a fall and get trapped behind the bathroom door."

Now, thanks to Staying Put, Peter is able to get around his home safely, and his rehabilitation is going so well he no longer needs to use a walking frame.

"It's not just staying put," he says. "It's staying safe."

▶ What can I put in my blue bin?

Yes please



If in doubt put it in your green bin

NO thank you

- black sacks
- polystyrene or 'bubble wrap'
- light bulbs
- Pyrex
- food waste
- panes of glass or drinking glasses
- garden waste
- electrical items
- textiles, clothes and shoes

For more information:

www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling/ or call **01795 417 888**

▶ Empty Homes and disused buildings are No Use Empty!

In the last three years, 230 empty homes have been brought back into use across the Borough, but there are still more than 1,000 empty, around 600 of which have been unoccupied for more than six months.

Cllr John Wright, Cabinet Member for Housing at the Council, said: “Bringing empty homes back into use not only helps meet local demand for housing, but can reduce pressure for developing on green spaces, and help deter antisocial behaviour, vandalism and vermin that empty homes can attract.”

The Council does have some powers to take action against empty home owners, and homes which have been empty for more than two years are subject to 150 per cent council tax charge.



To help homeowners bring properties back into use, interest-free loans for repairs and improvements are available from Kent County Council's No Use Empty scheme.

This scheme has seen a number of local properties brought back into use, including Victoria Working Men's Club in Sheerness. The owners of the site, which had been unoccupied for 13 years, received £175,000



Before and after photos of the Red Shed Site.

in interest-free loans from No Use Empty, which was crucial in delivering the first phase of the 24 home project.

The Red Shed site in Teynham was once a British Rail site, and has since been used for car repairs and manufacture. The building was damaged in a fire, and stood empty for three years.

The site has been developed into six two bedroom semi-detached houses, one two bed detached house, and two three bed detached houses, as well as 15 car parking spaces.

To find out more, or to report an empty property visit www.no-use-empty.org or call the Private Sector Housing Team on **01795 417 538**.

► Council services, just a click away

The Council website www.swale.gov.uk is an easy to use way of accessing a wide range of Council services at any time.

You can get information about council services, report issues and securely pay for services.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council, said: "All our online services are designed to be user friendly with clear guidance, and are quick and easy to use. Whether this is your first time using online services or if you use the internet regularly, there's so much you can do either on a computer at home, or when you're out and about with a mobile device."

We are gradually increasing the services that you can access online, so please check back regularly.

Here's some of the most popular things people report, apply or pay for via our website:

- pay and view your council tax, business rates and outstanding invoices
- make a planning application
- make a complaint, send a compliment or comment about the Council
- apply for a job / work experience
- pay a parking fine / fixed penalty notice
- book a bulky item collection
- report flytipping, a missed bin collection, graffiti, or playground problems
- apply to go on to the housing register
- make a general request for information about a service

As well as the website, up-to-date information, including news, can be found on social media at www.facebook.com/swaleboroughcouncil or www.twitter.com/swalecouncil.

So go on, get clicking and do it online! www.swale.gov.uk





Introducing the new Maternity Enhanced Care Unit



Medway NHS Foundation Trust proudly opened the Maternity Enhanced Care Unit (MECU) on 4 August, inviting a select number of guests to celebrate the official opening by Chief Nurse, Steven Beaumont.

The Trust's maternity unit is one of the busiest in the South-East, delivering approximately 5,000 babies per year. Unfortunately, some of these mothers can develop unexpected problems during their pregnancy or just after delivering their baby and require more observation and care. Ordinarily this could result in the mother being transferred to other areas of the hospital for treatment, resulting in a separation from their new-born baby, causing emotional trauma. This situation is the reason why the new MECU unit has been developed and implemented by the Trust.

The Unit allows mothers to remain with their babies despite their acute and often complex healthcare needs, whilst at the same time receiving everything they need in terms of immediate medical care on the labour ward. This is delivered by a specialist team of midwives who have undertaken an enhanced level of training to deal with any complications that may arise during delivery.

Karen McIntyre, Head of Midwifery, said, "We are extremely proud of this new Unit, we are confident that that this new service will ensure that all mothers are given the most optimum birthing experience possible. We first started looking into the project in March 2014, since then we created the MECU Working Group, comprising of a multidisciplinary team.

"We also worked closely with the intensive care unit, which involved sharing resource, technology, knowledge and skills. Working together with other units and departments, intimately understanding each other's jobs roles, and merging them with our own has enabled us to offer even further enhancements to the quality of care we can deliver to our new mothers".

Dr Priya Krishnan, Consultant Anaesthetist, was instrumental in developing the MECU project. She said "Like many other general hospitals, if a mum becomes unwell during childbirth she is transferred onto another unit, which would mean she would be separated from her baby, and she would also be looked after by different nurses at different times of the day.

"However, by developing MECU we've enabled the small group of mums who become ill to receive care in an area that's familiar to them by the same team that have been taking care of them from the beginning. Most important of all, this allows mothers to stay close to their precious new-born."

The move by the Trust is a great step in not only safeguarding the psychological, physical and emotional well-being of mothers, but also benefits the community as a whole, ensuring families are safe in the knowledge that mum and baby have the highest level of care available to them at all times.

Improving care for hip fracture patients

Hip fractures are cracks or breaks in the top of the thigh bone (femur) close to the hip joint. They are often a result of falls; falls are common in older people due to other health problems, such as reduced vision, and mobility and balance problems.

For some, a hip fracture can be very difficult to recover from; this is why the National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommends a co-ordinated programme of care for people who have fractured a hip.

With an aging population across the UK, Medway NHS Foundation Trust, like other NHS trusts across the

country, are seeing an increasing number of people who have experienced hip fractures. This is why the Trust is working hard to improve the care offered to those suffering from this extremely painful problem.

The Trust has set up an action group made up of a team of specialist staff to focus on patient care, safety and experience. As a result, a new pathway has been implemented which will ensure that patients are seen quickly by a team of specialists who can assess the patient, and ensure that they receive diagnostic tests and pain management as soon as possible.

All patients having a nerve block need to be monitored by specialist cardiac monitors, and the League of Friends have purchased two of these monitors so that it can be kept permanently on Arethusa Ward. This now means that there are no delays waiting for a monitor to become available, which may have sometimes occurred previously.

Dr William Ogburn continues: "By doing nerve blocks we can achieve much better pain relief, as soon as the patient arrives. This reduces complications and medication side effects, and greatly improves patient outcomes and experience of the service".



Staff on Arethusa Ward

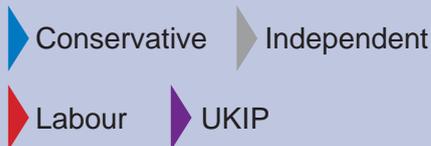


Medway achieves top marks in food hygiene inspection

Medway NHS Foundation Trust has received top marks for food hygiene following an inspection of Medway Maritime Hospital by Medway Council's Environmental Health Department.

Jane Walden, Deputy Head of Facilities, commented: "We are delighted to have received the highest possible rating in the inspection and I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work in achieving this. It's important that now we have reached this level we continue to work hard to maintain this standard; as part of this work we will be looking at ways to further improve the department and the service it provides".

Your Councillors



Abbey



Bryan Mulhern
01795 538 498
bryanmulhern@swale.gov.uk



Anita Walker
01795 531 192
anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk

Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow



Duncan Dewar-Whalley
07889 808 871
duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk



Ben Stokes
01795 476 979
benstokes@swale.gov.uk

Borden & Grove Park



Mike Baldock
01795 471 139
mikebaldock@swale.gov.uk



Nicholas Hampshire
01795 477 560 (eve) or 07739 108 756
nicholashampshire@hotmail.com

Boughton & Courtenay



George Bobbin
01227 751 388
george.bobbin@btinternet.com



Andrew Bowles
01227 752 840 or 07778 629 879
leader@swale.gov.uk

Chalkwell



Ghlin Whelan
01795 475 629
ghlinmwhelan@gmail.com

East Downs



Colin Prescott
01795 590 054
colinprescott@swale.gov.uk

Hartlip, Newington & Upchurch



Gerry Lewin
01634 366 113
cllrlewin@swale.gov.uk



John Wright
01795 842 852
johnwright@swale.gov.uk

Homewood



Alan Horton
07447 925 760
alanhorton@swale.gov.uk



Roger Truelove
01795 425 445
rtruelove12@gmail.com

Kemsley



Mike Dendor
07733 937 102
mikedendor@swale.gov.uk



Sue Gent
01795 430768
suegent@swale.gov.uk

Milton Regis



Roger Clark
07960 381 095
rogerclark@swale.gov.uk



Katy Coleman
01795 555 992
katycoleman@swale.gov.uk

Minster Cliffs



Andy Booth
01795 880 444 or 07912 464 213
andybooth@swale.gov.uk



Adrian Crowther
01795 874 418
adrian.crowther@kent.gov.uk



Ken Pugh
01795 871 388
kenpugh@uwclub.net

Murston



James Hall
01795 430 534
jameshall@swale.gov.uk



Samuel Koffie-Williams
07539 103 459 or 07484 274 235
samuelkwilliams@swale.gov.uk

Priory



Mike Henderson

07900 265 337
mikeshenderson@outlook.com

Queenborough & Halfway



Cameron Beart

07592 108 351
cameronbeart@swale.gov.uk



Richard Darby

01795 227 592
rdarby@aol.com



Peter Marchington

01795 661 960 or 07767 607 456
petermarchington@hotmail.co.uk

Roman



Sarah Aldridge

01795 599 272 or 07966 881 872
sarahaldridge@swale.gov.uk



Paul Fleming

07470 233 886
paulfleming@swale.gov.uk

Sheerness



Mark Ellen

01795 667 027
cllr.markellen@yahoo.co.uk



Mick Galvin

01795 666 903
mickgalvin@swale.gov.uk



Angela Harrison

01795 665 029
angelaharrison@swale.gov.uk

Sheppey Central



Tina Booth

01795 880 444 (eve) or 07921 394 306
tinabooth@swale.gov.uk



June Garrad

01795 227 592
jvgarrad@aol.com



Ken Ingleton

01795 873 709 or 07973 303 384
kjingleton@aol.com

Sheppey East



Lesley Ingham

01795 881 123 or 07714 445 871
lesleyingham57@yahoo.co.uk



Padmini Nissanga

01795 880 980 or 07500 863 623
mininissanga@swale.gov.uk

St Ann's



Mike Cosgrove

01795 591 790
cllr.cosgrove@swale.gov.uk



Nigel Kay

01795 531 298 or 07710 487 129
nigelkay@swale.gov.uk

Teynham & Lynsted



Lloyd Bowen

01795 522 357
lloydbowen@swale.gov.uk



Mike Whiting

01795 842 631
mikewhiting@swale.gov.uk

The Meads



James Hunt

07788 101 228
jameshunt@swale.gov.uk

Watling



David Simmons

01795 532 100
davidsimmons@swale.gov.uk



Ted Wilcox

01795 533 004 or 07711 476 769
tedwilcox@swale.gov.uk

West Downs



Monique Bonney

07973 443 527
montybon1@aol.com

Woodstock



Derek Conway

01795 424 865 or 07789 072 677
derekconway@swale.gov.uk



George Samuel

07986 221 966
gdsamuel1@aol.com

Home Care Services

Large enough to cope. Small enough to care.



We offer a reliable and flexible service to support people to stay at home and maintain their independence – from 30 minutes to 24-hours a day.



For more information on the type of support we can offer you, call 01795 508860

Become a part of the team:



We are looking for friendly, approachable and dedicated carers to join Scott Care.

If you would like to join the team call **01795 508860** or e-mail sittingbourne@scottcare.co.uk

Visit www.scottcare.co.uk to find out more about our services.

Our pay rates range from £8.10 to £12.15 per hour

We are a Gold Provider for Medway Council and a Contracted Provider for Kent County Council

t. **01795 508860** www.scottcare.co.uk

On behalf of

