

## Great British Spring Clean

How to take part in a litter pick near you

## Faversham Rec

Outdoor gym equipment installed

## Recycling this Easter

Handy recycling tips for this Easter

## What's on

Your guide to events and days out in Swale

## Bringing back the roaring 20s

A new festival for Swale

## Swale Business Awards

2020 awards are now open for entries

## Refuse and recycling calendar

Collection dates to the end of June

Spring 2020

# Inside

## Swale



Free Parking

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\*Terms and conditions apply.



Tim Valentine, Cabinet Member for Environment.

Welcome to the spring edition of Inside Swale. I'm delighted this issue reports on so much of the great progress that's been made on the priorities of the new administration; delivering services for the residents of Swale.

One of our priorities is to address the climate and ecological emergency. Plastic pollution is a major contributor to this issue, so to help keep single-use plastics out of the sea, the council teamed up with the GreenSeas Trust to provide new eye-catching bins on Sheppey's beaches (page 4).

Another serious problem is poor air quality on our busy roads. In response to research by the Faversham Society and the University of Kent, we have added two new locations in Faversham to our air quality monitoring network (page 7).

We're keen to encourage and support green businesses in Swale. To that end, we're pleased that an environmental impact category has been added to the Swale Business Awards (see page 11).

If you'd like to cut your fuel bills by generating your own renewable electricity at home, do contact Solar Together Kent (page 7). We have teamed up with Kent County Council to help you buy solar panels at a competitive price through a bulk buying scheme.

Another important priority of the coalition is to tackle homelessness. The council has worked with local groups who help rough sleepers, and invested resources to tackle the problem. In the last year 59 people have been helped off the streets and into a home (page 14).

The new administration is investing to improve local facilities and our green spaces. This includes the provision of new toilets at Minster Leas, refurbishing toilets at other locations around Swale (page 5), and the installation of outdoor gym equipment at Faversham Rec (page 21).

I hope the spring sunshine, and warmer days, will be with us soon and you are able to enjoy spending some time at our wonderful parks and clean beaches.

Inside Swale is written and designed by Swale Borough Council's communications and team and distributed to over 61,000 homes. For advertising, please email [insideswale@swale.gov.uk](mailto:insideswale@swale.gov.uk)

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Cover photo: Faversham Creek looking towards Standard Quay.

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 417850** or **csc@swale.gov.uk** and we will do our best to help.



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

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**01795 417850**

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 **@SwaleCouncil**

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

## Clarification

We would like to apologise for the error in the article about the Swale Business Awards in the winter issue of Inside Swale.

We incorrectly named the charity that received the money raised at the Swale Business Awards raffle as Swale Youth Development Fund.

The charities that received the money were in fact the Mayor of Swale's charities, Sheerness Lifeboat and Kent Air Ambulance.

## Artesian well at Oare Marshes to flow again

We've awarded a £10,000 grant to Kent Wildlife Trust so that locals, visitors and sailors will once again be able to drink from the artesian well at Oare Marshes.

The natural spring, which reaches 250 feet into the earth, was tapped by the local Mining Machinery and Improvement Company in the early 1900s.

Entrusted to Kent Wildlife Trust since 1982, the well has been a highlight for visitors and walkers who refill their water bottles while exploring the natural landscape.

The water at the well stopped flowing at the end of 2018, and months of investigative work followed to identify the problem and find a solution.

Funding was also received from The H R Pratt Boorman Family Foundation and a local band called Touch The Earth.

Work started earlier this year and the well is due to reopen in the coming months.



## New recycling bins at Sheppey's beaches



*Oliver Huggins with Mayor of Swale, Cllr Ken Ingleton, Cllr Tim Valentine and Fazilette Khan, Founding Trustee of the GreenSeas Trust.*

Residents and visitors will be able to help save marine life at Minster Leas, Leysdown and Sheerness beach this summer thanks to new recycling bins from the GreenSeas Trust.

We teamed up with the trust to install three new bins, one for each beach, that help protect marine life by reducing the amount of single use plastics discarded on the beaches and promenades.

Last year, nine-year-old St George's Primary School pupil Oliver Huggins spoke out about the need for recycling bins at Minster Leas. This prompted us to team up with GreenSeas Trust to install the new bins at the three bathing beaches on the island.

We contributed more than £4,500 towards the new bright and educational bins in the hopes they will encourage people to recycle their plastics bottles.

The first bin was installed at Minster Leas beach in February, and bins at Leysdown and Sheerness beaches will be installed in time for summer.

# More accessible parking for disabled leisure centre users



*From left to right, Cllr Eddie Thomas, Cllr Derek Carnell, Margaret Bowerman, Cllr Richard Palmer and Cllr Angela Harrison in one of the new disabled bays.*

People with mobility challenges will now find it even easier to access Sheppey's healthy living centre at Sheerness Leisure Complex thanks to a newly built disabled car park next to the pool building.

We invested more than £20,000 to build the new disabled car park that provides five new accessible parking bays within easy reach of the healthy living centre.

The new disabled car park will support the newly installed healthy lifestyle gym built for £110,000 to support the older and mobility challenged people living locally.

The new facility opened in April 2019 to provide an accessible space that would help keep older generations, and those with mobility challenges, moving in a welcoming and supportive environment.

To find out more, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/new-](http://www.swale.gov.uk/new-disabled-parking-for-leisure-centre)

[disabled-parking-for-leisure-centre](http://www.swale.gov.uk/new-disabled-parking-for-leisure-centre)

## New public toilets for Minster Leas beach front

Councillors have committed £200,000 to refurbish and install new public toilets in Faversham, Leysdown and Minster Leas.

The decision to install brand new toilets along Minster Leas beach front, and to refurbish the public toilets at Central car park in Faversham and the Spinney in Leysdown was made at the cabinet meeting in December.



Building these new toilet facilities is the start of a wider programme to refurbish and install better toilet facilities around Swale.

There has been £120,000 committed to install new toilets on Minster Leas beach front. The plan is for the new toilets to be nearer the beach front and to have them in addition to the public toilets already on Broadway.

The new toilets will hopefully open this summer, and they'll be open all year round.

There's also £40,000 allocated for the toilets at Central car park in Faversham and £40,000 for the toilets at the Spinney in Leysdown. Work to refurbish these toilets should be completed by the spring. Plans are also in place to refurbish even more public toilets across the borough this year.

# SOLAR TOGETHER KENT

## Buying solar panels made easy!

Solar Together Kent is here to help you get high-quality solar panels at a competitive price through the power of group-buying.

Sign up today at [solartogether.co.uk/swale](http://solartogether.co.uk/swale)



## Easter Opening Hours

	Swale House Sittingbourne	Sheppey Gateway Sheerness	Alexander Centre Faversham
Thursday 9 April	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm
Good Friday, 10 April	Closed	Closed	Closed
Easter Monday, 13 April	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 14 April	9am-5pm	9am-5pm	9am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-5pm

# Tackling air pollution in Faversham



*Cllrs Tim Valentine, Eddie Thomas and Hannah Perkin inspect one of the diffusion tubes in London Road Faversham.*

New diffusion tubes have been installed to monitor the air quality at four locations on two major junctions in Faversham.

The key locations were identified in a report by the University of Kent's Centre for Health Service Studies after they carried out air quality testing at seven locations in Faversham between September 2018 and June last year.

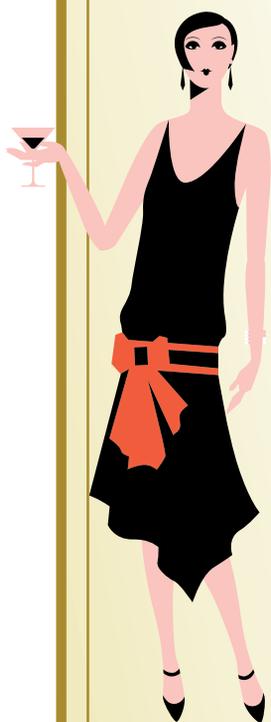
The report, commissioned by The Faversham Society, found that two of the seven locations tested had levels of nitrogen dioxide that were close to the UK annual mean objective of 40ug/m<sup>3</sup> and warranted further testing.

Following discussions we had with the university and the society, four key locations were found at the two junctions identified by the report as needing further testing. As a result, diffusion monitoring tubes have now been installed.

Two of the diffusion tubes are based on opposite sides of the Ashford Road junction, and another two at the East Street and Crescent Road junction. The diffusion tubes will be monitored for one year with their readings taken monthly and added to DEFRA's national database.

For further information on air quality within the borough visit [www.swale.gov.uk/air-quality](http://www.swale.gov.uk/air-quality)

## 20s festival weekend



It's officially the 2020s, and we want to celebrate this new decade in style with a weekend dedicated to the 1920s. The festival will have a range of entertainment and events at locations across Sittingbourne.

We've also commissioned three performances in a pop-up venue next to Swale House. The pop-up will host a 1920s themed old-time music hall on Friday 10 July, a jazz and dance evening featuring Sue Caroline and The Andy Wall 1920s Ensemble on Saturday 11 July, and a 'Murder Mystery' performed by The Company Upfront on Sunday 12 July. Keep an eye out on the Visit Swale website and social media for ticket information and booking.

Start ordering or making your costume now, we're looking forward to seeing you all in your 1920s finest! There will be prizes for the 'Best Dressed 1920s Shop Window', a 1920s dress code for some of the entertainment and spot prizes for those dressed in 1920s costumes. With groups and organisations taking part, parade, stroll or promenade along the High Street and take in the additional offers in the town over the weekend.

If you would like to get involved, email [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

1920  
2020

# What's on in Swale this Easter



10-12 April

## Easter at Brogdale



Meet the lambs, calves, pigs, sheep and more in the animal barn. You can catch the tractor trailer for an adventure through the blossom filled orchards on the Easter Egg Trail. Meet the Easter

bunny and collect your tasty chocolate treat.

For ticket prices and more information, visit [www.brogdalecollections.org/product/easter-tickets](http://www.brogdalecollections.org/product/easter-tickets)

10-13 April

## Easter at Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway

There are plenty of opportunities to visit Sittingbourne's Steam Railway this Easter, with trains running across all four days. On Good Friday, children can choose and plant a pot and even draw a wrap for their pots. Or join the Easter Egg hunt on Easter Monday.

For more information, visit [www.sklr.net/timetable-fares/special-events/easter](http://www.sklr.net/timetable-fares/special-events/easter)

12-13 April

## Easter at Mount Ephraim



Join the Easter fun at Mount Ephraim. Keep an eye out for giant Easter eggs in the gardens and complete the

trail to win a chocolate treat. Cuddle up to the bunnies, guinea pigs, chicks, hedgehogs and skinny pigs. There's also an arts and craft stand.

For more information, visit [www.mountephraingardens.co.uk](http://www.mountephraingardens.co.uk)

18-19 April

## Hanami Festival 2020 at Brogdale collections



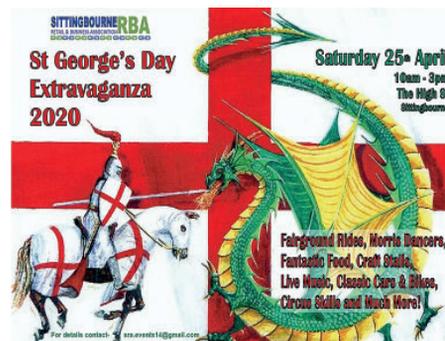
Enjoy traditional Japanese entertainment while you picnic under the beauty of the ornamental cherry blossom. See the lajutsu quick-draw sword demonstrations, taiko Japanese

drumming performances and tea ceremony demonstrations. Sample Japanese food, have a go at Japanese calligraphy, discover the art of Bonsai and much more.

For more information and to book, visit [www.brogdalecollections.org/product/tickets-hanami-festival/](http://www.brogdalecollections.org/product/tickets-hanami-festival/)

Saturday 25 April

## St George's Day Extravaganza



Sittingbourne High Street extravaganza to celebrate St George's Day. A fun packed day for all the family with classic cars and

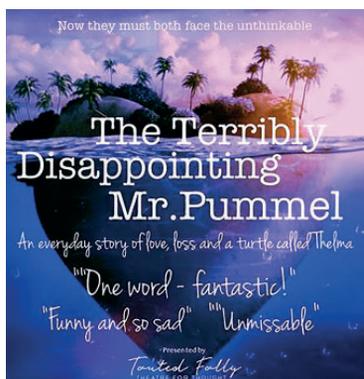
motorbikes, live music, street performances, morris dancers and fun fair rides.

The town crier will be in attendance announcing the entertainment and St George and the Dragon will be making appearances throughout the day.

For more information, visit [www.visit-swale.co.uk/events/st-georges-day-extravaganza-2020-sittingbourne](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk/events/st-georges-day-extravaganza-2020-sittingbourne)

Saturday 25 April

## The terribly disappointing Mr Pummell at Sheppey Little Theatre



Combining stage performance with filmed footage, the play is a two-handed romantic comedy with pathos. It follows a couple in their fifties who meet in 1979, through their 20-year relationship on a

series of holidays on a Greek island.

For more information, visit

[www.sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk](http://www.sheppeylittletheatre.co.uk)

Saturday 25 April



## IMPS visit to Eastchurch Aviation Museum

Invicta Military Vehicle Preservation Society (IMPS) will be visiting Eastchurch Aviation museum between 11am and 2pm, the display

will be bigger and better than ever.

Static displays of classic trucks, jeeps, tanks, mobile guns, ambulances, armoured cars. Talk to the owners and climb aboard.

For more information, visit

[www.eastchurchaviationmuseum.org.uk/events](http://www.eastchurchaviationmuseum.org.uk/events)

Sunday 26 April

## ABBA Chique at the Avenue Theatre



ABBA Chique are back for another fantastic tribute night, with all the glitz and glamour of a real ABBA concert. For more information, ticket prices and to book,

visit [www.avenuetheatre.co.uk](http://www.avenuetheatre.co.uk)

Sunday 31 May

## Faversham Charter Market Doggy Day



2020 is the fifth Faversham Charter Market Doggy Day in association with Happy Endings Rescue and The Dog Ate It Gourmet Dog Treats. A celebration of all things doggy, there will be a fun dog show with classes including Cutest Couple and Best Sausage Eater (sausages

from local butchers, Baldys). The market will be joined by dog related businesses and charities.

For more information, visit

[www.favershammarket.org/faversham-market-events](http://www.favershammarket.org/faversham-market-events)

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

Visit Swale is a great place to advertise events and attractions, and can help you reach thousands of people – locally and from further afield – for free. We also publish as many listings as we can in Inside Swale.

You can submit events online for listing on Visit Swale and Visit Kent. Simply visit [www.visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form). Fill in any information you have about the upcoming event – everything from community theatre and comedy shows, to pub quizzes or exhibitions can be included – and upload some jpeg images to appear on any event listing page. Or, you can contact the team with your listings by emailing [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

Don't forget to follow Visit Swale on social media:



# How does your garden grow?

It's once again time to start getting your gardens looking beautiful. The In Bloom judges are preparing to take a tour of our towns as part of the South, South East in Bloom competition. They'll not only be looking to judge local community projects, parks and green spaces, but will also be looking at front gardens too.

The regional judges will be touring the borough in July, and your garden could be on the route so make sure it is looking beautifully in bloom! Local groups will also be out judging front gardens for their competitions. There's no need to enter unless you live in Minster where gardens must be nominated, residents will be advised of dates nearer to the time.



*South Road, Faversham 'It's Your Neighbourhood' volunteers planting day.*

Swale in Bloom is also continuing to promote Wild About Gardens, which is the Kent Wildlife Trust's gardening awards. This year they will be having a special award for the town or village with the best buzz, in the Buzz for the Coast Region, this will highlight the achievements of the three year project. After a brilliant talk from the wild about gardens organiser, Maureen Rainey, at this year's Sittingbourne in Bloom awards, they will be looking out for wildlife friendly front gardens for a new award in their competition this year.

Our greenspaces team are also continuing to work with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, Kent Wildlife Trust including Bee Roads, and Kent Reptile and Amphibian Group to improve our parks and open spaces to increase biodiversity.

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## ONE YOU KENT

Did you know that the NHS can help you to live a healthier, longer life?

We provide services in Swale that can help you to stay fit, healthy and well. If you're not sure where to start, or just want some advice, start here.

No lectures! Just friendly advice and support to make the changes that are important to you.

# Will your business be the 2020 Swale Business of the Year?

The awards open for entries from 24 March 2020

Now entering our fourteenth year, the Swale Business Awards offer your business a way to celebrate your achievements.

This includes:

- Recognition of your team's contribution to your success
- The opportunity to raise your business' profile and increase awareness among potential customers
- Extensive online coverage via our website and social media
- All applicants invited to attend our black tie ceremony at the Kent Event Centre
- A £1,000 cheque for the overall winner of Swale Business of the Year



With just one entry form to complete, you will be entered for all applicable categories, including:

- Swale Business of the Year
- Sheppey Business of the Year
- Small Business of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year
- Customer Service Award
- Faversham Business of the Year
- Sittingbourne Business of the Year
- Employer of the Year
- Environmental Impact Award
- Community Impact Award

Any size and type of business can apply; you must have been trading for a minimum of 12 months on 30 June 2020, and your Head Office must be registered in Swale.

## Dates for your diaries

**March 24:** Awards open for entries; launch event at Kent Science Park, 16:30 - 18:30

**June 3:** Bank of England presentation and networking at Shepherd Neame, 16:30 - 19:00

**June 30:** Entries close

**October 16:** Gala Awards Dinner at Kent Event Centre

**Know a business you think should enter?**

Send the name of the business and a contact email to [awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk) and we'll get in touch to tell them they've been anonymously nominated!



For more information on entering, or to book your place at either event, please visit [www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk) or email [awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk)

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**William WHITMEY**  
INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

# Let's talk council tax

We are asking band D council tax payers to pay an extra 9p a week for our services.

Following the increase, a band D household will be asked to pay just £3.45 a week, or £179.37 a year, for our services from April this year, a rise of £4.95 for the year (less than 10p a week). Most properties in Swale are in bands A-C, which means they will pay even less than this.

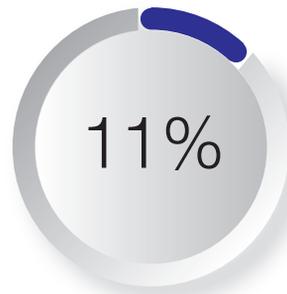
## Who receives the council tax you pay?



Kent and Medway  
Fire and Rescue  
Authority



Swale  
Borough  
Council



Kent Police  
and Crime  
Commissioner



Kent  
County  
Council

## Let's break this down...

Our total budget is made up from a combination of council tax, business rates, fees and charges (from things including car parks, garden waste collections and fines) and from funding through central government. However, the funding we receive from central government has significantly fallen in the last few years. In 2016/17 we received £1.95million, but this fell to just £113,000 in 2019/20, and has been reduced to nothing for 2020/2021.

So what does our 10% go towards? Some of the total revenue is spent on:



Housing advice  
and homelessness  
support



Leisure and  
sports centres



Grounds  
maintenance



Planning  
services

# Ways to pay

There are a number of ways to pay your council tax, but the easiest way is by Direct Debit. It's simple to set up and saves you time. You can complete a Direct Debit form online – you don't need to register for an account or sign into our website.

Once it's set up, your council tax bill can be paid in either 10 or 12 monthly instalments. Visit

[www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay](http://www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay) to set up your Direct Debit.

Other ways to pay include calling our 24-hour automated payment line on **0330 088 1702**, online at [www.swale.gov.uk/pay-your-council-tax](http://www.swale.gov.uk/pay-your-council-tax), by standing order, cheque or PayPoint.

If you do not already have an online My Services account to view details of your council tax account, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/my-services](http://www.swale.gov.uk/my-services) to register now.

If you have questions about how to pay, or are struggling to make payments, call **01795 417272**.

## e-billing

You can receive your council tax bills by email.

A copy of your bill will be emailed to you as a pdf attachment.

To sign up for the new e-billing service, visit

[www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay](http://www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay)

email [ctax@swale.gov.uk](mailto:ctax@swale.gov.uk)

or call **01795 417272**

The booklet 'Your Services 2020/21' can be found online at [www.swale.gov.uk/your-services](http://www.swale.gov.uk/your-services)



Refuse & recycling collection



Environmental response



Street cleaning



Environmental health

# More funding secured to help get rough sleepers off the streets

We're investing more than £218,000 to continue to help rough sleepers get off the streets for good.

The investment comes following the success of the new proactive approach that saw 59 people helped off the streets and into housing last year.

Funding to support the work has been received from the government's Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Last year we invested £150,000 to create a new support team that help to get rough sleepers into housing.

Working in partnership with the homeless charity Porchlight, the team includes a full-time complex needs worker, a full-time out-reach and in-reach worker, and a part-time out-reach and in-reach worker that's soon to be a full-time post. The team also includes a full-time team coordinator based at Swale House.

They assess their housing, social and healthcare needs, and work with partner agencies to help rough sleepers move towards a more positive future.

We also worked with Riverside Housing Association last year to lease 24 units of accommodation at The Quays.

Building on the hard work of the housing team from last year, we are looking to work with local groups within Swale who regularly give help to rough sleepers. By working with these local groups and organisations we can encourage the rough sleepers to engage with these new support services that can help them.

For more housing and homelessness support and information, visit

[www.swale.gov.uk/homelessness-prevention](http://www.swale.gov.uk/homelessness-prevention)

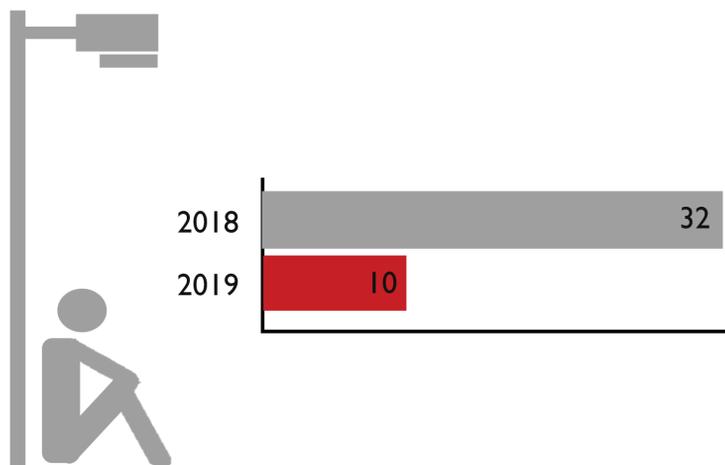
## Swale among best in country for tackling rough sleeping

According to newly-released government figures, we had the second highest reduction in rough sleepers in the country. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's annual report showed that the number of people found sleeping rough in the borough fell by 69% between 2018 and 2019, from 32 to 10.

There are a number of reasons why someone can find themselves sleeping rough, which are often complex and difficult to resolve. We're continuing to work with other agencies to try to get people off the streets and into permanent accommodation.

Not only will we focus on initiatives that help those who are sleeping rough, but also those who are at risk of becoming homeless in the first place.

The report shows a snapshot of the number of people sleeping rough on one night in November 2018 and again in November 2019, then measures the difference.



# Give a little egg-stra this Easter

Have you thought about giving a little extra support to help a family in need? This Easter it couldn't be simpler to do just that.

## Support Family Food Bank's Easter appeal

Family Food Bank are asking people to donate a small Easter egg along with three other products from the list below to help make up the family boxes this Easter:

- long life milk
- cereal
- tinned meat (corned beef or ham)
- tinned tuna
- tinned potatoes
- tinned curry or chilli
- a small Easter egg

Once you've collected these items, drop them in to your local distribution centre by Wednesday 8 April. You can find your local Family Food Bank distribution centre by visiting

[www.familyfoodbank.org/easter-2020](http://www.familyfoodbank.org/easter-2020)

## Donate an Easter egg to Swale Foodbank

Swale Foodbank will be taking donations of Easter eggs, including dairy free alternatives, in the run-up to Easter.

These can be donated at any of the distribution centres or donation points in Sittingbourne and Teynham. So that they can be distributed to families in time for the Easter weekend, please ensure your Easter donations are in by Friday 3 April.

## Eggs for Faversham Foodbank

Want to donate Easter eggs to families in Faversham? Faversham Foodbank will be taking donations of Easter eggs up to the end of March.

They can be dropped into any donation stations or distribution centres in Faversham until the end of March.



Opening times  
To find your nearest  
foodbank, and for  
opening times, visit  
[www.swale.gov.uk/  
foodbanks](http://www.swale.gov.uk/foodbanks)

# Freeze out the fly-tippers

Recently our environmental response team have been investigating a number of cases of fly-tipped fridge freezers across the borough.

Fridges and freezers can't be taken at scrap metal sites due to the CFC gases that they contain, so they are often dumped when collected by unlicensed waste carriers. However, Kent County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres do take them free of charge.



## Ways to responsibly dispose of your fridge freezers and waste

We want to remind everyone to be wary of who is offering to take their waste away and to always check they have a licence to carry waste. To check whether a carrier is licensed to carry waste visit the Environment Agency website <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers> or call **03708 506506**, and always make sure you get and keep your waste carrier's contact details – ideally from a receipt or invoice.

When ordering a new fridge freezer, many retailers will take your old one away for a small price.

If you have large items to get rid of, but can't get to the tip, our bulky waste collection service can help. You can book a bulky collection through our website [www.swale.gov.uk/bulky-item-collection](http://www.swale.gov.uk/bulky-item-collection) or by calling **01795 417850**

## Don't forget your duty of care

Many people might not realise that by using an unlicensed waste carrier, they could be contributing to fly-tipping in our countryside. If fly-tipped rubbish is traced back to you, and you can't prove who took it off your hands, you'll have failed in your legal duty of care and could be held responsible.

You could get an unlimited fine, a criminal record and be charged for the cost of clearing up your fly-tipped waste.

Think carefully before paying for your rubbish to be taken away: if someone tells you on social media that they can do the job at a very low rate, cash in hand, ask yourself how they can afford to do it so cheaply. If something looks too good to be true, it often is.

Saying **"I didn't think to check them out"** won't help if your waste carrier ends up dumping your rubbish illegally!

For more information about fly-tipping, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/fly-tipping](http://www.swale.gov.uk/fly-tipping)



## Recycle your crisp packets at Swale's offices

One of the biggest misconceptions is that crisp packets can go in with your kerbside recycling. Unfortunately, this isn't the case, but you can now pop empty crisp packets into bins that can be found in the reception areas at Swale House, Sheppey Gateway and the Faversham Town Council offices.

You'll not only be recycling but will also be helping raise money for Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex. So far we have collected close to 35kg of crisp packets, raising almost £70 for the charity.

## Pledge to pick for this year's Great British Spring Clean



You may be starting to notice the first signs of spring: snowdrops, daffodils and litter pickers too! That's because the Great British Spring Clean is officially back!

A month of events are planned to take place until 13 April. We are hoping that this year will be even bigger and better than last year.

Volunteer litter pickers head out in all weathers to clean up litter that's thoughtlessly discarded by others in Swale's streets, beaches, creek banks and village greens.

There's still time if you want to take part and organise your own clean-up, and we can help! We'll provide equipment and advice, and we'll arrange for Biffa – the borough's waste contractor – to dispose of all the litter you collect.

Any residents or community groups who would like to get involved still have time to organise a clean-up email [environmentalprojects@swale.gov.uk](mailto:environmentalprojects@swale.gov.uk) or call **01795 417888** for more information.



## Rolling out food waste collections

Did you know food waste isn't supposed to go in your green bin as it can be turned into compost and used throughout Kent? That's why we've started a roll out of food waste collections in roads, estates and blocks of flats where it was previously not available.

Two roads and three blocks of flats so far this year have successfully been switched to food waste collections, including 18 bin stores that now have food waste bins.

Most properties in the borough already have access to this service and it's a really simple and effective way to help make a difference in Swale. We'll be looking to roll out food waste collections to more roads this year to help increase recycling and to cut down on the amount of food going into general waste.

# Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you're unsure of your collection week, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day](http://www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day) and click the 'Next Bin Collection' link, or call 01795 417888.

## Week 1 collections

April 2020						
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			

May 2020						
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

June 2020						
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					

## Week 2 collections

April 2020						
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			

May 2020						
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

June 2020						
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					

 Blue wheelie bin collection week

 Green wheelie bin collection week

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

You can check garden waste collection dates at [www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day](http://www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day)



## Handy Easter recycling tips

The tasty Easter treats can generate lots of waste, but if you are unsure as to what can and can't be recycled, check out our quick tips to ensure you can recycle effectively this Easter:

1. Most packaging will have all the recycling information on, it will help you pick out which parts can and can't be recycled
2. This one is easy – cardboard boxes can be flattened and recycled
3. It's not just chocolate egg packaging, if you get an abundance of Easter cards these can be recycled in with your card and paper – just rip off any glittery bits
4. The foil wrapping on your Easter eggs can be recycled, just scrunch together with any other foil and pop in the recycling
5. Try the scrunch test with foil – if it scrunches and doesn't spring back, it's safe to be recycled. If it springs back, it has a plastic lining and can't be recycled

If you are in doubt as to what bin it should go in, use our online Waste Wizard. Just visit [www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling](http://www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling)

# Brown bins for green fingered gardeners

You may have noticed the signs of spring have started to appear, so now is the time to get out in your gardens and start getting it ready for the (hopefully) sunnier times ahead.

You're more likely to generate more garden waste during the spring and summer months. Grass clippings, weeds and trimmings from your pruning – it all builds up.

So what do you do with all this waste? Our garden waste collection is an ideal solution for frequent gardeners, and everything that's collected gets turned into compost. Simply sign up and let us do all the work! You can claim back that lost time you'd spend loading up your car to take it to the tip (not to mention cleaning your car out after).

It's a quick, easy and convenient way to get rid of your garden waste. For just £37 a year, you'll get a 240 litre brown bin, all you need to do is fill it up!



## What can go in my brown bin?

-  Grass clippings
-  Hedge / shrub trimmings
-  Cut flowers
-  Twigs
-  Small branches

## What should I leave out of my brown bin?

-  Soil / compost / stones / gravel
-  Seed trays / flower pots
-  Pet litter
-  Kitchen / food waste
-  Black sacks
-  General waste or recycling



It's quick and simple to sign up online, just visit [www.swale.gov.uk/brown-bin-garden-waste](http://www.swale.gov.uk/brown-bin-garden-waste) or call **01795 417888**

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# New outdoor gym equipment at Faversham Rec



New outdoor gym equipment has been installed next to The Pavilion on Faversham Rec.

We teamed up with The Great Outdoor Gym Company, Viridor Credits and Faversham Municipal Charities to install the equipment during the £1.9 million renovations.

There are 10 pieces of equipment to choose from, including a smart energy hand bike, recumbent bike, cross trainer and spin bike which can all be linked to an app on your phone that can track and record your progress.

Three of the machines are doubled sided and can be used in tandem, including the lateral pull down and shoulder press, the pull up and assisted pull up, and dip and leg raise.

There is also a leg press, bench and multi-use rig with monkey bars and various sized parallel balancing beams that can be used in a variety of different ways.

The gym is designed to be used alone, with friends or with a trainer, and can also be used by personal fitness clubs for circuit training.

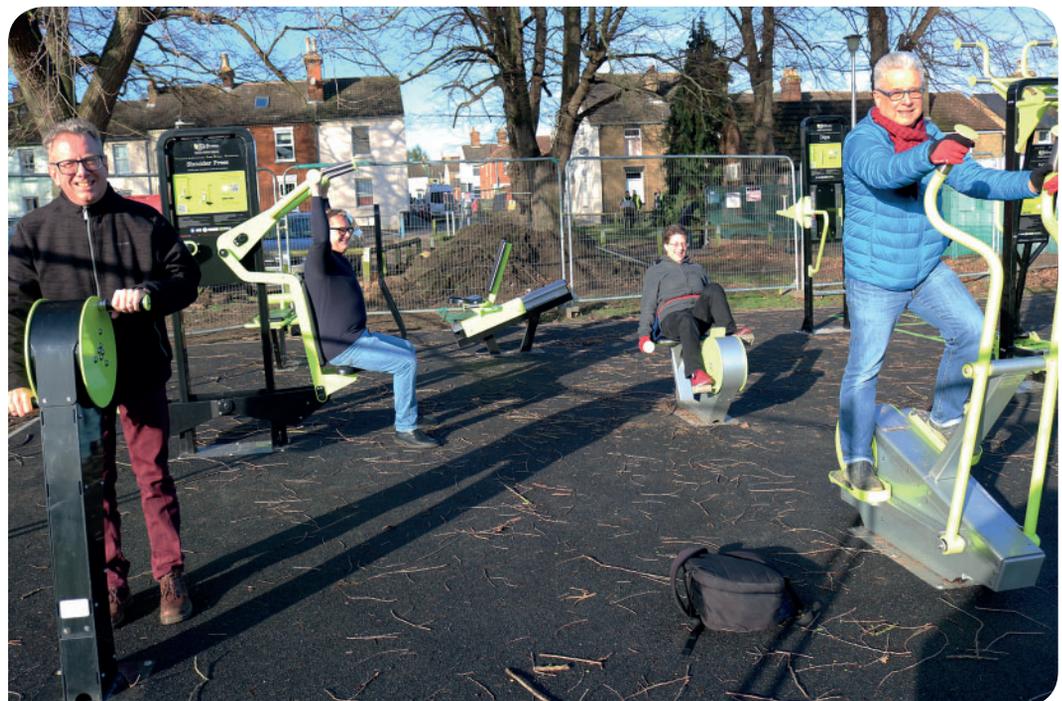
The multi-use rig and hand bike can also be used by wheelchair users.

It was important for us to install equipment that was suitable for all ages and abilities, including those that are less mobile, so whether you're a beginner or fitness pro, there's something for you to try.

This project is funded by the Heritage Fund and National Lottery Community Fund.



*Cllr Julian Saunders using the new outdoor gym equipment in Faversham Rec.*



*From left to right, Cllr Eddie Thomas, Cllr Ben Martin, Cllr Angela Harrison and Cllr Julian Saunders using the new outdoor gym equipment.*

# Your councillors

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



## Abbey

**Denise Knights**  
07774 701381  
deniseknights@swale.gov.uk

**Hannah Perkin**  
07811 035512  
hannahperkin@swale.gov.uk

## Bobbing, Iwade and Lower Halstow

**Roger Clark**  
01795 430324  
rogerclark@swale.gov.uk

**Corrie Woodford**  
corriewoodford@swale.gov.uk

## Borden and Grove Park

**Mike Baldock**  
01795 471139  
mikebaldock@swale.gov.uk

**Nicholas Hampshire**  
01795 477560/07739 108756  
nicholashampshire@swale.gov.uk

## Boughton and Courtenay

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

**Tim Valentine**  
01227 752802/07752 191807  
timvalentine@swale.gov.uk

## Chalkwell

**Ghlin Whelan**  
01795 475629  
ghlinwhelan@swale.gov.uk

## East Downs

**David Simmons**  
01795 532100  
davidsimmons@swale.gov.uk

## Hartlip, Newington and Upchurch

**Alan Horton**  
07447 925760  
alanhorton@swale.gov.uk

**Richard Palmer**  
07702 674721  
richardpalmer@swale.gov.uk

## Homewood

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

**Roger Truelove**  
01795 425445  
rogertruelove@swale.gov.uk

## Kemsley

**Derek Carnell**  
01795 550190/07988 244364  
derekcarnell@swale.gov.uk

**Mike Dendor**  
07733 937102  
mikedendor@swale.gov.uk

## Milton Regis

**Steve Davey**  
stevedavey@swale.gov.uk

**Tony Winckless**  
01795 425987  
tonywinckless@swale.gov.uk

## Minster Cliffs

**Richard Darby**  
01795 227592  
richarddarby@swale.gov.uk

**Ken Ingleton**  
01795 873709/07973 303384  
keningleton@swale.gov.uk

**Ken Pugh**  
01795 871388  
kenpugh@swale.gov.uk

## Murston

**James Hall**  
jameshall@swale.gov.uk

**Ann Hampshire**  
01795 477560/07940 142473  
annhampshire@swale.gov.uk

## Priory

**Benjamin A Martin**  
07734 559089  
benjaminmartin@swale.gov.uk

## Queenborough and Halfway

**Cameron Beart**  
07592 108351  
cameronbeart@swale.gov.uk

**Simon Fowle**  
07802 449700  
simonfowle@swale.gov.uk

**Peter Marchington**  
01795 661960/07767 607456  
petermarchington@swale.gov.uk

## Roman

**Tim Gibson**  
01795 427074  
timgibson@swale.gov.uk

**Ken Rowles**  
01795 599003/07831 563354  
kenrowles@swale.gov.uk

## Sheerness

**Mark Ellen**  
01795 667027  
markellen@swale.gov.uk

**Angela Harrison**  
01795 665029  
angelaharrison@swale.gov.uk

**Lee McCall**  
07590 012105  
leemccall@swale.gov.uk

## Sheppey Central

**Elliott Jayes**  
01795 877057/07708 956059  
elliottjayes@swale.gov.uk

**Peter MacDonald**  
01795 873116/07523860074  
petermacdonald@swale.gov.uk

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

## Sheppey East

**Padmini Nissanga**  
07500 863623  
mininissanga@swale.gov.uk

**Bill Tatton**  
01795 511516  
billtatton@swale.gov.uk

## St Ann's

**Carole Jackson**  
07746 772694  
carolejackson@swale.gov.uk

**Julian Saunders**  
07746 772695  
juliansaunders@swale.gov.uk

## Teynham and Lynsted

**Lloyd Bowen**  
01795 522357  
lloydbowen@swale.gov.uk

**Mike Whiting**  
01795 842631  
mikewhiting@swale.gov.uk

## The Meads

**James Hunt**  
01795 417830  
jameshunt@swale.gov.uk

## Watling

**Ben J Martin**  
01795 417806  
benmartin@swale.gov.uk

**Eddie Thomas**  
07872 472032  
eddiethomas@swale.gov.uk

## West Downs

**Monique Bonney**  
07973 443527  
moniquebonney@swale.gov.uk

## Woodstock

**Paul Stephen**  
01795 430774  
paulstephen@swale.gov.uk

**Sarah Stephen**  
01795 430774  
sarahstephen@swale.gov.uk

# ManKind Initiative

The ManKind Initiative was the first charity in Great Britain to support male victims of domestic abuse (registered in 2001). Since then, they have been at the forefront of providing services and support for male victims of domestic abuse, and campaigning to ensure that male victims receive the support they need from other organisations.



Their mission is to:

- provide direct help and support for male victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence
- actively encourage other voluntary and statutory services to acknowledge the incidence of male domestic abuse
- to view domestic abuse as gender neutral and to provide adequate levels of support to male victims
- raise public awareness and act as an advocate for the issue of male victims of domestic abuse (and their children)

ManKind operates a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse. The helpline is available weekdays 10am-4pm **01823 334244**. You should always call **999** if you are in immediate danger.

For more information about ManKind, visit [www.mankind.org.uk](http://www.mankind.org.uk)

## One Stop Shop

The One Stop Shop service is running across Swale, offering free and confidential advice, support and information all under one roof for anyone experiencing domestic abuse. The service is currently available on the Isle of Sheppey and Sittingbourne, and there is no need for visitors to book an appointment.

Further details on location and times can be found on our website. On this page you can also find useful information and links about other organisations that may be able to help, just visit

[www.swale.gov.uk/domestic-abuse](http://www.swale.gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

If you are a victim of domestic abuse, you can also call the 24 hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline on **0808 2000 247**

Alternatively, you can visit the Domestic Abuse Service's website at

[www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk).

## Swale Domestic Abuse One Stop Shop

Free information, advice  
and support for people  
experiencing domestic  
abuse in Swale.

No appointment needed.

For further information, please call **01795 417424**

If you require support, please call the 24-hour National Domestic Violence Freephone Helpline - **0808 2000 247** or visit [www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk)





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