

Winter 2019

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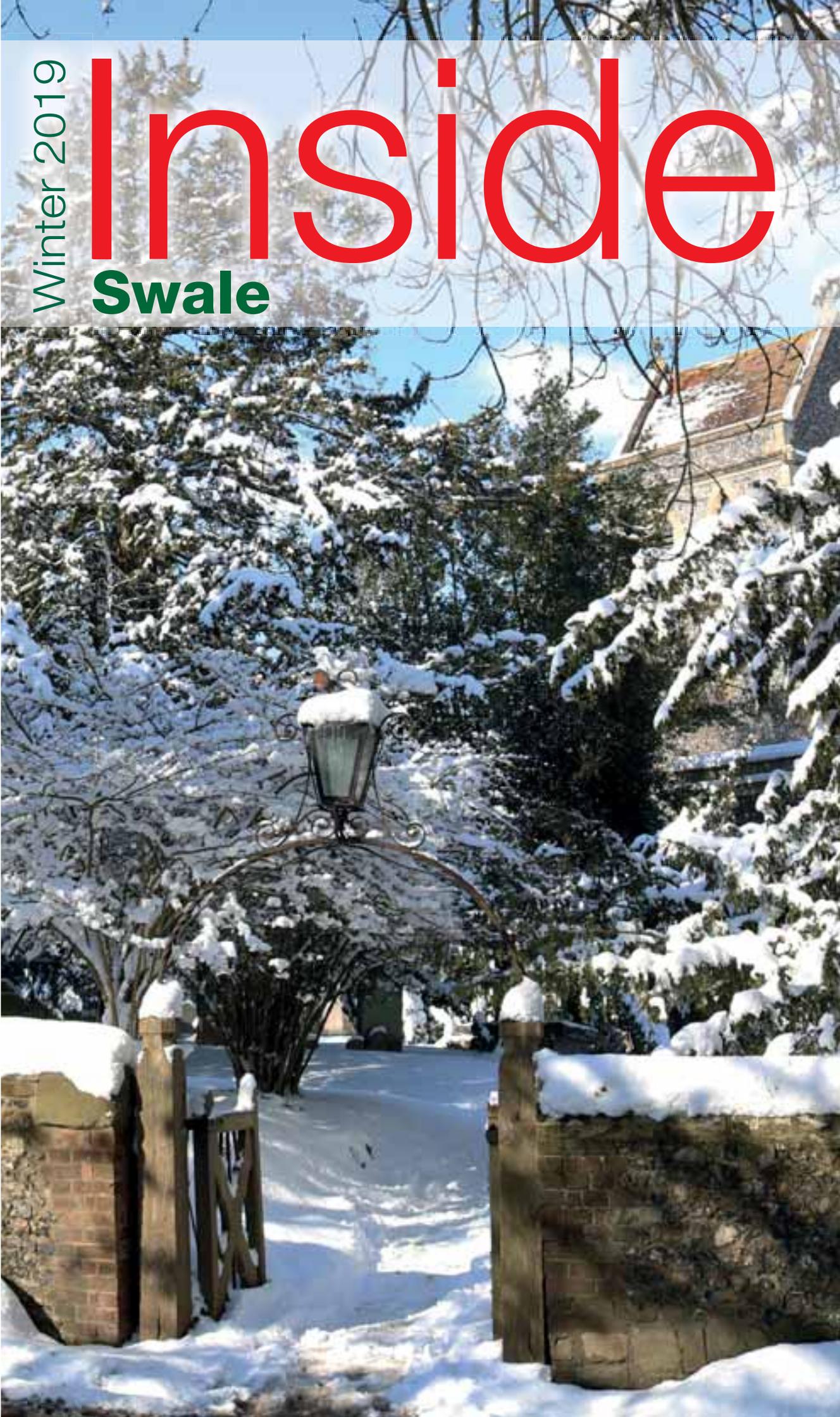
A new festival for Swale

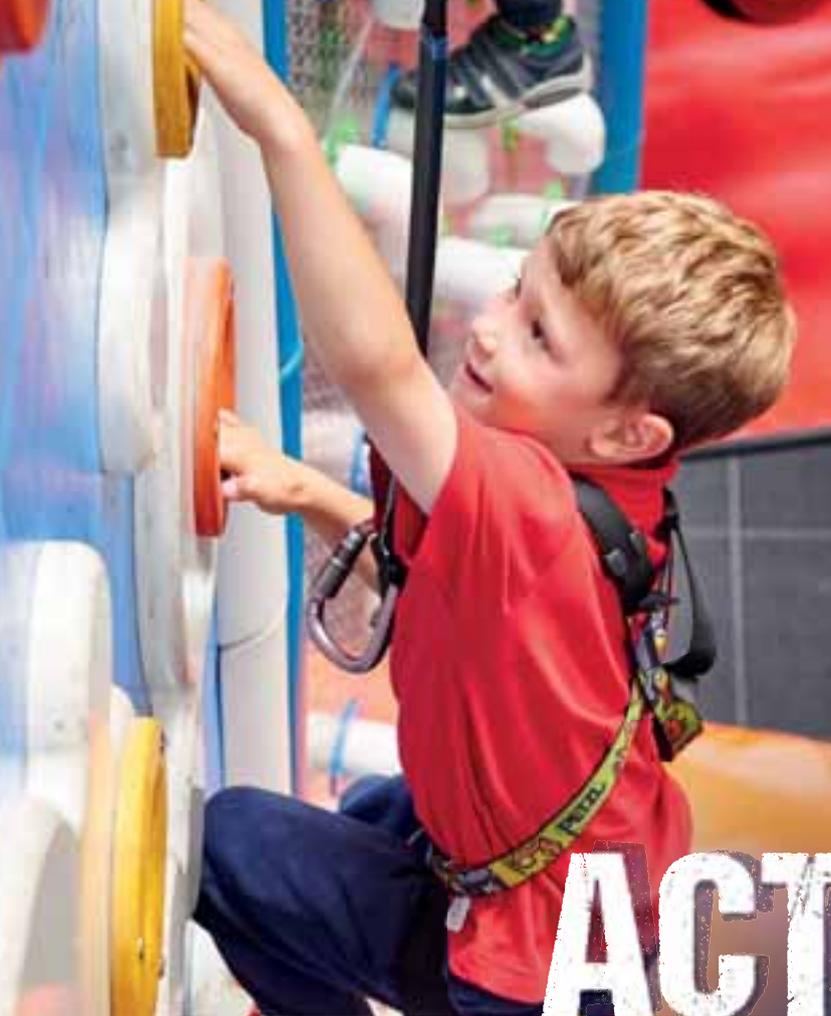
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Time to nominate a hidden hero

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Awarded £100,000 for restoration





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Welcome to the winter issue of Inside Swale, we hope you enjoy the read.

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*We wish you a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year!*

Inside Swale is written and designed by Swale Borough Council's communications 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: Tunstall churchyard in the snow.

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 **Swale Borough Council**

 **@SwaleCouncil**

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

# Balas Drive play area gets much needed makeover

Balas Drive is the latest play area in the borough to see investment and improvements. The play area in Sittingbourne saw £10,000 invested into the site to help upgrade the equipment, ensuring that it is a fun and challenging place to play.

The old climbing wall was removed and replaced with a new rotary web, which provides a rotating climbing experience.

The trim trail has been extended to add fun new challenges to the area, and an additional springer has also been installed.

The improvements were finished, and the play area was reopened just in time for the October half term.



# Full steam ahead for Faversham Rec



You may have seen that works to Faversham Rec have been gaining speed in recent months, the heritage-led regeneration was made possible due to the funding awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, now known as the Heritage Fund.

The restoration of the Lodge and Pavilion buildings took a little longer than expected to get started, as the initial survey found asbestos present in both buildings which needed fully clearing before work could begin.

Work has progressed in recent months, stripping out the buildings, removing roofing and replacing tiles, reusing where

possible but also introducing reclaimed tiles where needed. In the Lodge building the historic windows and doors have been reopened ahead of them being reinstated.

The new performance and event space at the front of the Lodge is being constructed and is starting to take shape. For the latest news on the works taking place, keep an eye on the notice boards in the Rec.



# Council Christmas opening hours



	Swale House, Sittingbourne	Sheppey Gateway, Sheerness	Alexander Centre, Faversham
<b>Monday 23 December</b>	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 5pm
<b>Tuesday 24 December</b>	9am – 3pm	9am – 3pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 25 December</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Thursday 26 December</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Friday 27 December</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Monday 30 December</b>	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Tuesday 31 December</b>	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Wednesday 1 January</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed</b>
<b>Thursday 2 January</b>	9am – 5pm	9am – 5pm	9am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 5pm
<b>Friday 3 January</b>	9am – 4.30pm	9am – 4.30pm	9am – 12.30pm & 1.30pm – 4.30pm

## Bringing the roaring 20s to 2020

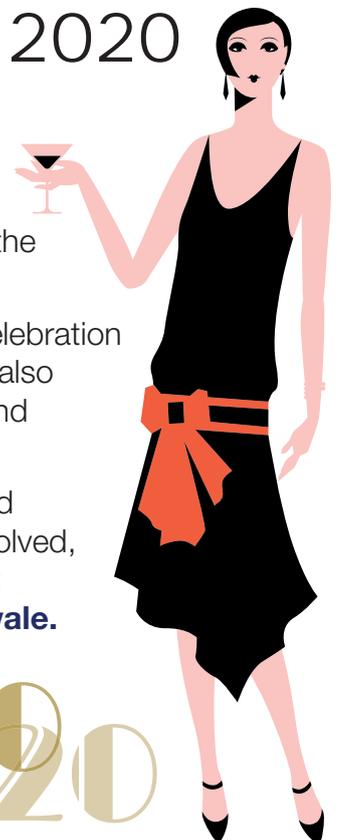
We want you to join us in celebrating the 2020s in true flapper style, with a 1920s Weekend – a celebration for the 20s.

The festival, which will bring a taste of the 1920s to 2020 with activities and events for the whole family to enjoy, will take place over the weekend of Friday 10 July to Sunday 12 July 2020.

Events and activities will be themed around the 1920s and will be a celebration for the new decade of the 20s, showcasing not only our heritage, but also businesses and activities in Sittingbourne High Street. Swale House and surrounding areas will play host to a variety of festival activities.

We want to encourage as many people as possible to get involved and help bring the roaring 20s to Sittingbourne. If you would like to get involved, either by hosting partner events, offers, or by dressing your shop-front window in a 1920s theme, contact the team on [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

More information about the event will be announced over the coming months – keep an eye out in the next Inside Swale for more details.



# 192020

# £93,000 boost for Faversham Pools

Faversham Pools will be able to install new, energy-efficient boilers, thanks to a £93,000 grant from the new special projects fund.

The trust that runs the pools approached us for help to replace the existing boiler and heating system which is more than 20 years old and had become hard to maintain.

After looking for suitable sustainable alternatives, a modern condensing boiler system was chosen as most appropriate for the site.

Despite not being owned by the council – unlike the leisure centres in Sittingbourne and Sheppey – Faversham Pools receives an annual grant of £100,000 from the council towards its running costs in recognition of its valuable role in the local community.

The funding means the pools should be able to secure additional funds to cover the rest of the costs of the scheme from the Sports England Community Asset Fund and Viridor Credits Scheme.

# Promote your events with Visit Swale

If you or someone you know is planning an event in Swale, why not upload it to the Visit Swale website? It's quick and simple and will help give your event the extra boost in promotion it needs.

Simply submit events online at [www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk) through the events submission form for listing on the Visit Swale and Visit Kent websites. Fill in any information you have about the upcoming event and upload any images you want to appear on the event listing page.

The team will then be able to promote your event on the Visit Swale Facebook page and [@Visit\\_Swale](https://twitter.com/Visit_Swale) on Twitter, helping to get your event in front of more people. A selection of events are also listed in *Inside Swale*.

# Welcome to The Leas parkrun

On Saturday 28 September we welcomed the latest parkrun UK event to The Leas, Minster on the Isle of Sheppey. The 5km route along the seafront provides a free activity for residents and visitors. Like all parkruns across the globe, it starts at 9am every Saturday and is managed by a team of local volunteers.



We helped jointly fund the Leas parkrun along with Minster-on-Sea Parish Council and the Rotary Club of Minster-on-Sea. It's great to see local organisations coming together to help establish opportunities for people to get active.

This event will add to the established Sittingbourne parkrun at Milton Creek Country Park.

If you are inspired to get running its easy to sign up to your local parkrun, or just grab your trainers and explore the great outdoors in Swale. If you'd like some support, visit the running page of the Visit Swale website for some of the local organisations providing opportunities to get going.

# Kids tell parents - don't be idle!

Children across the borough are telling their parents to stop being idle, as part of a campaign to improve air quality outside their schools.

Pupils at Lower Halstow Primary School, Ospringe Primary School and Newington Primary School took part in a competition to design a banner to encourage people to switch off their engines outside the school gates.



We organised the competition as part of our Clean Air for Schools initiative. It aims to highlight the harm caused by motorists not switching off their engines when they are waiting in traffic or outside schools at drop off or pick up times.

Officers went to the schools to talk to the children about air pollution and the risks it poses.

The Clean Air for Schools initiative has been set up as part of our air quality action plan and we aim to work with schools to encourage sustainable travel options and raise awareness of air pollution.

To find out more, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/clean-air-for-schools](http://www.swale.gov.uk/clean-air-for-schools).

## A dazzling success for Fusion Festival of Light

Sittingbourne was awash with colourful lights as 2,500 people took to the streets for Swale's third annual Fusion Festival of Light.

We once again worked in partnership with Cohesion Plus and Kent Equality Cohesion Council for the festival which aims to use arts to bring communities together to celebrate the values of respect, excellence, friendship and equality. The event is continuing to grow and this year it was kindly supported by the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner, Awards 4 All, Optivo, St Georges Business Park, Swale and Kent County Councillors, and SFM radio station.

The festival began in Sittingbourne High Street with spectacular performances from Bloco Fogo Samba who brought their signature carnival beats to the proceedings, as well as a show-stopping performance from the Folk in Fusion Drumming Collective and Fat Cat Brass. Also attending for the first time was Oscar the Fox, a large-scale mobile art installation who wowed and interacted with the crowds.

The Festival then continued with a special lantern parade featuring local residents and 12 local schools that worked with Same Sky, Ideas Test and Big Fish Arts in the build-up. The festival climaxed in Albany Park with a spectacular firework display and the SFM roadshow.



# Wonderful winter entertainment

## What's on in Swale

Saturday 30 November  
**Sheerness Christmas Market – lantern parade and lights switch on**



A day of events run by Sheerness Town Team culminating in the switch on of the town's Christmas lights display.

The High Street and The

Broadway will host craft stalls, children's rides, street entertainment, The Rotary Club of Minster's annual Santa Saunta, and the ever-popular Big Fish Arts lantern parade.



and gift stalls, so you can get all your shopping done in one go! A fantastic family market with carols, music and entertainment galore.

Sunday 22 December  
**Demelza Festive Family Walk**



7-14 December  
**Christmas Parties at The Ferry House Inn**



Prepare yourselves for a cracking Christmas party at The Ferry House Inn with circus-themed entertainment across three incredible evenings. Tickets are £48.50 per person, which includes a three-course meal in the event suite, dinner entertainment, a disco and more!

There is a choice of three evenings and you can book for either Saturday 7 December, Friday 13 December or Saturday 14 December.

For more information, or to book, visit [www.theferryhouseinn.co.uk/christmas-parties.html](http://www.theferryhouseinn.co.uk/christmas-parties.html)

Sunday 8 December  
**Faversham Christmas Sunday Market**

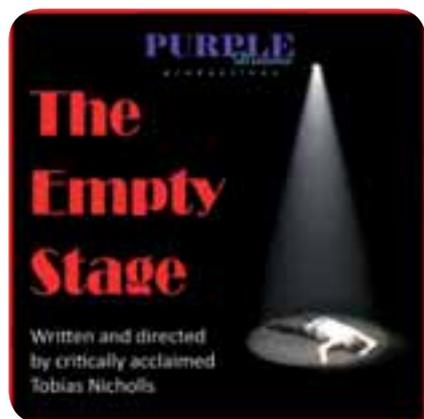
The first of a series of special Christmas markets taking place in the heart of Faversham's town centre. Packed full of locally produced food, drink

Why not kick off your Christmas celebrations with Demelza's festive family walk around the lanes of their beautiful Sittingbourne hospice. Gates will open at 4pm with the festive walk leaving at 4.30pm. Don't forget to bring a torch to walk the lanes and look out for the local Christmas lights and see a special visitor along the route. Fundraising stalls will stay open until 6pm.

Parking at the hospice is limited, so car sharing and public transport are recommended where possible. There is the chance to reserve parking spaces when booking your tickets, but these are limited.

For more information and to book, visit [www.tickettailor.com/events/demelzahospicecareforchildren/293769](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/demelzahospicecareforchildren/293769)

Saturday 25 January  
**The Empty Stage at the Avenue Theatre**



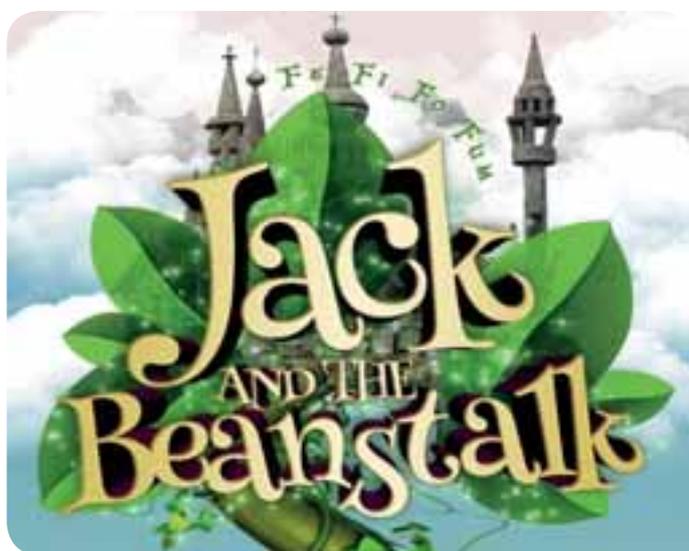
Written and directed by Tobias Nicholls. Rising star Carina Harris was killed during an unscheduled rehearsal for an upcoming play. Now it's up to the director to work out which of his temperamental

cast is dramatic enough to be a killer.

The Empty Stage has kept audiences guessing since 2016, and Purple Dreams are excited to now bring this popular and modern 'whodunit' to the Avenue Theatre.

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

Sunday 26 January  
**Jack and the Bean Stalk at Sheppey Little Theatre**



A chance to enjoy this touring matinee performance of Jack and the Bean Stalk as it comes to Sheppey Little Theatre. Fun for the whole family, watch the spectacle, comedy and songs featured in this traditional pantomime.

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

19 - 23 February  
**Faversham Literary Festival**



February 2020 will mark the third year for the Faversham Literary Festival. There is another exciting programme of events and activities planned for book lovers of all ages and persuasions.

The festival will once again feature author talks, discussions, creative workshops and spoken word events in a number of the town's historic venues, including the Guildhall, the Old Brewery Store within the Shepherd Neame Brewery, and the Alexander Centre.

For the latest event information, including ticket prices and venue details, visit [www.favershamliteraryfestival.org](http://www.favershamliteraryfestival.org)

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 us with your listings by emailing [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

Don't forget to follow us on social media

 @Visit\_Swale

 VisitSwale

# Rough sleeping in Swale



Twenty three people have been helped off the streets thanks to a new approach to rough sleeping in Swale.

We have secured space for up to 12 additional people sleeping rough to help them find suitable long-term accommodation.

Merlin House, Sittingbourne, is being used as supported accommodation for people sleeping rough, where they can then be helped by us and our partner the homeless charity Porchlight and Riverside Housing Association.

Once off the streets, people are assessed and referred to specialist support to help them find more suitable permanent accommodation.

The move is the latest part of the our new proactive approach to help get homeless people off the streets and into suitable accommodation.

A new rough sleeping coordinator is working alongside Porchlight to help people sleeping rough into suitable housing.

Plans are also being put together with local voluntary groups to provide a night shelter in winter to make sure anyone sleeping rough will have a safe warm place to stay on the coldest nights.

At the end of October, 23 rough sleepers had been housed in Merlin House or other temporary accommodation, with three moved to long term permanent accommodation since July.

We are determined to do everything possible to get people off the streets and into appropriate accommodation.

These aren't permanent solutions for the people who use them, but they give them somewhere to stay while officers work with other agencies to get them the support they need to sustain long-term accommodation. Additional investment in the service means we have been able to increase the level of outreach work.

If you would like to find out more about the work of homeless charity Porchlight, visit [www.porchlight.org.uk](http://www.porchlight.org.uk) or if you would like to make a donation visit [www.porchlight.org.uk/donate](http://www.porchlight.org.uk/donate)

The Housing Options team can offer help and advice to anyone who becomes, or is at risk of becoming, homeless in the borough. For information and advice visit [www.swale.gov.uk/homelessness-prevention](http://www.swale.gov.uk/homelessness-prevention) or call **01795 417485**.

If you've seen someone rough sleeping and you think they're in immediate danger or in need of urgent medical help, call **999**.

If you've seen someone rough sleeping and you'd like to tell someone you can contact Porchlight on **0800 567 7699** or via their website [www.porchlight.org.uk/tell-us](http://www.porchlight.org.uk/tell-us).

# Christmas Markets

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

Faversham, Sheerness and Sittingbourne all have seasonal markets giving you the opportunity to pick up a unique gift, some treats for Christmas day, or to be filled with the joys of the festive season.



## Faversham

### Faversham Christmas Sunday Market

**8, 15 and 22 December**

Faversham will play host to special Sunday Christmas markets taking place in the heart of the town centre, where it will be packed full of locally produced food, drink and gift stalls.



## A weekend Christmas Market at the Alexander Centre

**14-15 December**

Have a browse at the wonderful gifts on offer over the weekend market at the Alexander Centre, where you can pick up some presents for your loved ones.

Entry is free, and the Alexander Centre's pop-up tearoom will be open.

## Isle of Sheppey

### Sheerness Christmas Market

#### Lantern Parade and Lights Switch On **30 November**

The High Street and The Broadway will host craft stalls, children's rides, street entertainment, the annual Santa Saunta and the popular Big Fish Arts lantern parade.



## Sittingbourne

### Sittingbourne Artisan Christmas Market

**14 December**

With homemade Artisan goods from local producers, every purchase is supporting local businesses. This Christmas edition of the Artisan market has something for everyone! With goods ranging from specialised bakes, cheeses, cakes, candles, cards, ales, ciders, confectionary, jewellery and much more, every purchase is truly bespoke with its own homemade, and hand made history.

# Scrunch it and see!

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

Unfortunately, some wrapping paper is foiled or has plastic film so can't be recycled. But there is a quick and easy way to test what should go in with recycling and what should go in general waste.

Simply grab a handful and scrunch it into a ball, if it stays in a ball when you open your hand then it can go in with your recycling. If it doesn't, pop it in your general waste or save it for wrapping next year's presents!

If you are unsure what bin to pop things in over the Christmas period, check online using our waste wizard at [www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling](http://www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling)



## Bright lights in the borough

To help make Swale feel festive, we re-launched the festive display grant – making £25,000 available to support Christmas lights displays across the borough.



*Christmas lights in Faversham*

funding that would help to support their festive display projects, spreading the spirit of the season across Swale.

After submitting applications, the funding was provided in early November to allow plenty of time for organisations to prepare for Christmas.



*Eastchurch Christmas lights*

We are looking forward to seeing the festive displays and hope that they are enjoyed by residents and visitors.

## Don't be caught out by the freeze – salt giveaways

With winter on its way, there is one thing we can generally rely on, and that's cold weather.

To help make sure that you don't get stuck in your house during any big freeze that heads your way this winter, we are doing salt bag giveaways. So that you can step foot outside your house without the worry of a slip on an icy patch, pop along to one of our giveaways on the morning of Saturday 30 November from 10am to 2pm.

**Rose Street Car Park, Sheerness**  
**Forum Car Park, Sittingbourne**  
**Central Car Park, Faversham**

# Christmas collections



The table on the right shows changes to refuse, recycling, food waste, garden waste and clinical collections.

Bulky collections will be suspended for two weeks over Christmas and New Year and will start again Monday 6 January 2020.

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Christmas Day	→ Friday 27 December 2019
Boxing Day	→ Saturday 28 December 2019
Friday 27 December 2019	→ Monday 30 December 2019
Monday 30 December 2019	→ Tuesday 31 December 2019
Tuesday 31 December 2019	→ Wednesday 1 January 2020
Wednesday 1 January 2020	→ Thursday 2 January 2020
Thursday 2 January 2020	→ Friday 3 January 2020
Friday 3 January 2020	→ Saturday 4 January 2020
<b>Monday 6 January 2020 - All collections return to normal</b>	

## Recycling and refuse collection dates

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

■ Blue wheelie bin collection week

■ Green wheelie bin collection week

■ For collections during the Christmas period please refer to the table above.

**Don't forget, food waste is collected weekly with both bins.**

### Week 1 collections

January 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		

February 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	

March 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					

### Week 2 collections

January 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		

February 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	

March 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					

If you are subscribed to our garden waste service you can check your collection dates at [www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day](http://www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day)

In the event of severe weather, please leave your green/blue bin and food waste bin out as per your normal collection schedule – we will get to you as soon as we can. Daily updates will be available on our website [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk)

# Help your local foodbank this Christmas

We all know how expensive Christmas can be. Unfortunately for those working to a tight budget the added expense of Christmas, along with increased fuel bills in winter, leads many people to make difficult choices. Foodbanks in Swale are doing their part to make Christmas a little easier for those struggling.

## Foods that make a difference Faversham Foodbank

Faversham Foodbank is asking for donations of Christmas foods including:

- tinned salmon – nice biscuits – crackers
- Christmas pudding – tinned custard
- Christmas chocolates – tinned ham/meat

These can be donated at:

**Tesco**, Faversham

**Sainsbury's**, Faversham

**Morrison's**, Faversham

**The Gospel Mission Church**, Tanners St, Faversham

**St Mary of Charity Church**, Church Rd, Faversham

**John High Opticians**, Market St, Faversham

**The Fleur-de-Lis Centre**, Preston St, Faversham

## Reverse Advent Swale Foodbank

Swale Foodbank are running their reverse advent! Each year they ask that instead of taking a chocolate from an advent calendar, you place one item in a box. You can even do a decorated box and include items such as mince pies, Christmas chocolates, crackers, Christmas pudding, brandy sauce and more.

Completed boxes can then be donated at the Net Church on Christmas Eve between 10am and 12pm. If it's not possible to drop the box off on Christmas Eve, you can make alternative arrangements by calling **07486 370709** or by emailing **info@swale.foodbank.org.uk**.

You can donate to:

**Sittingbourne Baptist Church**, High Street

**Net Church**, East Street, Sittingbourne

**Holy Trinity Church** (next to Lidl), Sittingbourne

**Methodist Church**, High Street, Sittingbourne

## The 12 Tins of Christmas Family Food Bank

Family Food Bank are asking for donations of 12 tins that make up food boxes over Christmas, and are also the least donated products:

- curry – chilli – chicken in sauce
- meatballs – stew – pasta (ravioli/macaroni)
- tuna/fish – potatoes – peas/carrots
- sweetcorn – custard/rice pudding
- fruit (peaches/mixed fruit etc.)

The tins can be donated at:

**Swale House**, Sittingbourne

**Sheerness Gateway**, Sheerness

**Alexander Centre**, Faversham

**Seashells Children's Centre**, Sheerness

**Ladybird Children's Centre**, Queenborough

**Beaches Children's Centre**, Leysdown

**St Marys Children's Centre**, Faversham

**Woodgrove Children's Centre**, Sittingbourne

**Milton Court Children's Centre**, Sittingbourne

**Murston Children's Centre**, Sittingbourne

**St Marys Church**, Teynham

If you'd like to make a monetary donation, visit **[www.familyfoodbank.org/make-a-donation.html](http://www.familyfoodbank.org/make-a-donation.html)** To find out more about the foodbank, visit **[www.familyfoodbank.org](http://www.familyfoodbank.org)**

## Donate to Sheerness Foodbank

Sheerness Foodbank is asking for you to help them with their shortages. As well as the usual tinned and dried goods, they have a shortage of tinned vegetables and toiletries including deodorants, shampoo and shower gel. Christmas items including Christmas puddings and mince pies would also be greatly welcomed. You can drop donations into **Holy Trinity Church**, Broadway, Sheerness.

## Christmas opening times

For information about foodbank opening times over the Christmas period, visit **[www.swale.gov.uk/foodbanks](http://www.swale.gov.uk/foodbanks)**



# Time to nominate a hidden hero

It's time to celebrate the hardworking hidden heroes within our community at the annual Volunteer Swale Awards. The nominations for the 2020 awards are now open.

The annual awards recognise the hard work of those special individuals who give their time to put something back in to their community.

If you know someone who works tirelessly to make life better for the people and communities of Swale, and think they deserve to be recognised, then why not nominate them for an award?

Nominations for the 2020 awards are open until midnight Sunday 22 December 2019.

To nominate that special individual or team simply download a nomination form to complete at [www.swale.gov.uk/volunteer-swale](http://www.swale.gov.uk/volunteer-swale). This can be scanned and emailed to [volunteer@swale.gov.uk](mailto:volunteer@swale.gov.uk) or **Freepost** to

**RTJT-RZTJ-KYZK**  
**Volunteer Swale**  
**Swale Borough Council, Swale House,**  
**East Street, Sittingbourne,**  
**Kent ME10 3HT**

The Volunteer Swale Awards ceremony will take place in March 2020.

*Winners of the Outstanding Achievement Award  
2019, Deirdre and Dennis Ines with Past Mayor  
of Swale, Samuel Koffie-Williams.*



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# Best in the business

The best of Swale's business community came together to be honoured at this year's Swale Business Awards.

The awards, now in their 13th year, celebrate excellence in business across the borough. The awards continue to grow every year, and 2019 proved to be the biggest year yet, with the highest number of applications received in the history of the awards. There continues to be a high calibre of applications received every year, giving the judges a real challenge.

## SWALE BUSINESS AWARDS 2019



*The winners at this year's award ceremony.*

Burden Bros Agri Ltd was the overall winner, being named Swale Business of the Year 2019. The company has been operating since 2007 and have entered the awards previously, having been named Sittingbourne Business of the Year at the 2018 awards. The judges

were really impressed with the company's continued progression and their innovative approach to challenging some long-standing industry 'norms'. The business benefits from an impressive senior management team whom have established a very strong and focused business culture. There is a clear vision of where the business is heading and they have identified the actions and milestones that they need to meet to get there.

The winners on the night were:

- **Entrepreneur of the Year** – AbBaltis
- **Swale Small Business of the Year** – The Oast Osteopathy
- **Faversham Business of the Year** – Saxon Shore Estate Agents
- **Sheppey Business of the Year** – Elmley Nature Reserve
- **Sittingbourne Business of the Year** – Kayo Digital Limited
- **Employer of the Year** – Tribeca Technology Group
- **Customer Services and Commitment Award** – Kedoo Optical Limited
- **Impact in the Community Award** – Queenborough Harbour CIC
- **Judges' Special Award** – Lorenden Prep School

As well as the presentation of the awards, the evening also included a charity raffle, which raised £1,225 for the Swale Youth Development Fund.

Plans are already underway for an even bigger and better event next year. To find out more about the awards, sponsorship opportunities and the application process for 2020, please visit [www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk). Don't forget to follow the awards via social media to receive the latest updates!

# Always be prepared!

With winter bringing a certain amount of unpredictability with weather, it's always a good idea to be prepared for every eventuality.

## Think ahead...

- Order repeat prescriptions to make sure you have enough
- Have your heating and cooking appliances checked regularly
- Keep an eye on the weather forecast and plan ahead with food supplies

### On the road

Make sure your vehicle is ready for winter by checking tyre tread, wipers and fuel levels before driving and stock your car with an emergency kit including:

- blanket
- gloves and winter clothing
- shovel
- ice scraper and de-icer
- food and water
- extra screenwash
- first aid kit
- sturdy footwear

In periods of severe weather such as snow and ice, do not travel unless necessary. For more information see [www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter/travel/road](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter/travel/road)

### Have an emergency grab bag

To prepare for leaving your home in a hurry, have an emergency grab bag that has important things to hand such as:

- first aid kit/prescribed medication
- hearing aids, glasses/contact lenses
- mobile phone and chargers
- house and car keys
- money/credit cards
- basic toiletries
- supplies for babies and small children
- food/bottled water
- clothing/shoes
- copies of insurance documents

You can find more information on [www.swale.gov.uk/what-should-i-do-in-an-emergency](http://www.swale.gov.uk/what-should-i-do-in-an-emergency)

### What if there's a power cut?

UK Power Networks, who own and maintain the cables delivering electricity to the South East, has a Priority Services Register. They provide free additional support and advice to pensioners, families with young children and people with special needs, disabilities or health conditions during power cuts.

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

- a 24-hour priority phone number
- a dedicated team who will keep you updated
- tailored support such as home visits, hot meals and advice

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

### Don't forget your pets too

If you have pets, have an emergency plan in place for them too! The RSPCA recently recognised our contingency planning team for their work to make sure the care of animals and pets is included in plans. Have a handy kit ready for your pet to grab and go:

- pet carrier
- litter tray and litter
- pet food
- bowls
- photo of your pet for identification purposes
- lead, collar & identity disc
- any medication they need

For more information on how you can prepare to look after your pets during an emergency visit [www.swale.gov.uk/emergency-pet-welfare](http://www.swale.gov.uk/emergency-pet-welfare)



# International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

As an official White Ribbon Borough we are committed to tackling domestic abuse. The White Ribbon campaign engages men in an effort to end male violence against women. By wearing a white ribbon men promise to never commit, condone or remain silent about such violence.

As Monday 25 November officially marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, our Community Safety Partnership are continuing their efforts to help raise awareness of domestic abuse.

The partnership is continuing to engage with pubs and clubs across the borough to promote the White Ribbon campaign and its purpose.

If you need advice or 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)**.

To find out more about the White Ribbon campaign, and to take the pledge, visit **[www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk)**

## Community Alcohol Partnership launched in Swale

Over the summer the Community Safety Partnership helped to launch two Community Alcohol Partnerships (CAPs) to tackle underage drinking and anti-social behaviour on the Isle of Sheppey.

CAPs were launched for both Leysdown and Sheerness with the aims to reduce the sale of alcohol to young people, advise them on the dangers of drinking, and provide alcohol-free activities through youth services and local charities.

The Sheerness and Leysdown CAPs have brought together stakeholders including Kent Police, Kent County Council, Swale Borough Council, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Sheppey College, the Oasis Academy, retailers and holiday parks. Officers have been engaging with retailers over the last few months, offering free training on age-related sales and providing the necessary material to ensure compliance. The partnership has been working closely with schools and are planning on organising assemblies for young people focusing on alcohol harm and the effects of underage drinking.



# Recycling this Christmas

## Reuse

Buying an artificial tree is cheaper in the long run, but unfortunately, we can't currently recycle artificial trees. Offer unwanted trees to friends or family or take them to your local Household Waste and Recycling Centre.

To make more meals from your leftovers, visit [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) for some creative ideas.

You can also reuse Christmas gift bags, chocolate tins, tinsel and decorations, crisp or whiskey tubes can be reused for storage, and even Christmas cards can be used for handmade gift tags next year.

## Recycle

Christmas gifts produce a lot of recycling, so be sure to pop empty cardboard boxes, cards and wrapping paper (make sure to do the scrunch test, see p12) in with your recycling.

But think outside the cardboard box at Christmas! Chocolate tins, cardboard chocolate boxes, plastic inner trays, chocolate advent calendars, foil trays, empty cranberry sauce and brandy butter jars and lids, and empty cream pots can also all be recycled.

Your real Christmas tree can be chopped up and put in your garden waste bin. Alternatively, take it to your local household waste and recycling centre; for Christmas opening times visit <https://bit.ly/33hhwoT>

## Food recycling

Using a food waste bin can help save space in your refuse bin, which is handy at Christmas. You can recycle the turkey carcass, vegetable peelings, orange peel, leftovers from your plate, tea bags and coffee grounds, and the brussel sprouts no one really wanted and more!

If you would like to start food waste collections but don't currently have a food waste bin, call **01795 417888**.

## General waste

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

If in doubt, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling](http://www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling) and check our waste wizard to see what bin you should pop something in.



# Murston Old Church receives £100,000 funding boost

We've awarded £100,000 to Murston All Saints Trust (MAST) for the restoration and development of Murston Old Church as part of the Murston HeArt project.

The money will go towards the trust's impressive plans for a creative community hub in Murston Old Church and the surrounding churchyard.

Built in the 14th century, the church was mostly destroyed in the years that followed leaving only the central chancel standing. The medieval remains were placed on Historic England's Heritage At Risk Register after suffering ongoing vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the past.

The trust's plans for Murston Old Church include restoration of the remaining chancel as an art gallery and meeting space, building eight studio units for visual arts and crafts, plus a community and education space and café.

A pocket park will be created in the surrounding churchyard including new seating, pathways and parking facilities.

John Nightingale, Chair of Murston All Saints Trust, said: "Swale Borough Council's grant is a huge boost, showing confidence and commitment to the project, and is encouraging others to support us. We're all very excited about bringing this project to fruition, believing it will put the Old Church at the heart of the community.



*Artist's impression of completed project.*

"Our aim is for it to bring together all the different parts of Murston – the older community, the large business community on the Eurolink and the community that is part of the new housing at Great Easthall."

In recent years the church has been home to art exhibitions, children's festivals and community activities.



# 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)



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# Have a safer Christmas

Lots of us are busier at Christmas time – and when you're busier, it's easy to get distracted and forget common sense safety precautions. Here's a few tips to help keep you safer this Christmas . . .



## Stay safe shopping online.

Make sure you only use websites you trust: Christmas always brings a spike in online credit card fraud

**Make sure you only park in well-lit areas,** particularly when you're somewhere you don't know well

## Spending Christmas away from home?

Consider timer switches for your lights so your house looks occupied while you're gone



## Presents and bags of shopping can be tempting targets

if they're left in your car – bring them inside or put them out of sight in your boot

...and remember, in an emergency or if an incident is in progress, call 999; to report a non-urgent issue, call 101.

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