

inside Swale

Winter 2018

Keeping you informed about your council services

SWALE REMEMBERED WW1

World War One pullout

WHAT'S ON

places to see
things to do

FESTIVE MARKETS

for all your Christmas shopping

RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTIONS

for Christmas and
the New Year

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don't get caught out
by the freeze



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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE



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Cover photo: Newnham village in snow
February 2018

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*Andrew Bowles, Leader,
Swale Borough Council*

Welcome to the Winter issue of Inside Swale.

At this time of year I really think that Swale comes to life. It seems to be alive with atmosphere. Communities and people from all walks of life come together to enjoy the festive season.

It's not just at Christmas that communities come together. Over the past few years we've worked with and supported a number of community groups to give the 100 year milestone of the First World War the recognition it deserves. This November marked the culmination of everyone's hard work with the centenary of the end of WW1.

A special commemorative pull-out can be found on pages 17-20. You can read about how Swale was affected by WW1, and about a number of the projects and events that have taken place around the borough.

There's a lot to look forward to in the borough at this time of year, with plenty of events to help not only get you in the festive spirit, but to also pick up a Christmas gift or two. Take a look at the What's on in Swale guide on pages 8 and 9 for some ideas.

Christmas is supposed to be a time filled with joy and happiness, but we also need to be wary of dangers it can present. Turn to page 10 for some advice on how to have a safe and enjoyable Christmas.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.





Volunteer Swale Awards

**Do you know a team
or individual who
give up their time to
help others?
Nominate now!**

**Nominations open Monday 22 October
to Sunday 9 December 2018**

For more information

Call **01795 417193**

Email **volunteer@swale.gov.uk**

or to nominate visit

www.swale.gov.uk/volunteer-swale

SCVS Swale Community & Voluntary Services
Working in the heart of your community



Swale's stray dog service is top of the pack

Our stray dog service has been recognised as one of the best in the country by the RSPCA for the ninth year in a row!

The service has once again been awarded the Gold Footprint Award, which recognises good practice in animal welfare by local authorities in England and

Wales. Because Swale has been awarded a Gold Pawprint for five consecutive years, and in recognition of the awards' 10th anniversary, Swale has also been awarded a Platinum Stray Dogs footprint.



Councillor David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said:

“Hopefully, most people will never come across our stray dog service, but for those who do – when they’ve lost or found a treasured pet – it’s good to know that the service is of the highest standard.

“We were the first council in Kent to receive the award, and the fact we’ve held it ever since shows a consistent level of high quality that local people should be proud of.”



Report a stray dog

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

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

We were also awarded the Gold Contingency Planning Footprint by the RSPCA for our work to ensure the welfare of companion animals during an emergency.

We were able to successfully show that we have a set of policies and procedures for animal welfare as part of our work to ensure the council is fully prepared in the event of an emergency. We also have information for residents and animal related businesses on how they can be prepared to look after their animals during an emergency.

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

Are you registered to vote?

Local elections are just around the corner, but if you have not already registered to vote, it's not too late!

Thank you if you responded to the annual electoral canvass over the last few months, confirming your details and the details of all those eligible to vote in your household. If any names were added to your canvass response and they have not since registered to vote, please don't ignore the email request or big yellow registration forms which have been sent out. There is still time to register and it will only take a few minutes.

The quickest and easiest way is to register online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You will need your National Insurance number, which can be found on your National Insurance card, pay slips or pension letters. You will also be asked to give your date of birth.

If you need help or would prefer a form to be sent to you, you can contact our Electoral Services team elections@swale.gov.uk

The next elections will be held on 2 May 2019 – Borough, Parish and Town Council elections (including elections for the new Sheerness Town Council). To make sure you can have your say, you need to be registered to vote by 12 April 2019, but don't leave it to the last minute! For more information about how to apply for a postal or proxy vote, visit www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote



Festive markets for all your Christmas shopping needs



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 a selection of 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 Christmas.

On Saturday 1 December Sheerness High Street and The Broadway will be home to a special Christmas market to coincide with the Christmas lights switch on, hosted by the Sheerness Town Team. You can pick up a tasty treat on your way round or perhaps even some stocking fillers.

Faversham has already started getting into the Christmas spirit with its markets, but not to worry if you missed the first as there are two more still to come. On Sunday 9th and Sunday 16th of December you can visit the festive market, which offers locally-produced food, drink, and gift ideas, as well as some Christmas entertainment.



On Saturday 22 December, Sittingbourne will bring the borough's festive market season to a close. The market will bring festive cheer to Sittingbourne High Street from 10am-2pm. Perfect for last-minute Christmas shopping!

Find out more about what's happening near you this Christmas at Visit Swale

www.visit-swale.co.uk

What's on in Swale

1 – 23 December Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Santa Specials



You can now book your place on one of the Santa Specials that will be running in December.

Pre-booking is essential so that Santa can plan presents and catering for seasonal refreshments.

The fare includes the roundtrip from Sittingbourne Viaduct station. After the 15 minute journey to Kemsley Down, Father Christmas leads passengers to the Footplate Café, where there will be seasonal refreshments and children visit Santa's Grotto.

For more information and fare prices, visit www.sklr.net

Saturday 1 December Sheerness Christmas Market – Lantern Parade and Lights Switch On

The Sheerness Town Team will again be hosting the traditional Christmas light switch on, lantern parade and Christmas market in Sheerness.

It will be a day filled with Christmas festivities and fun!

The High Street and The Broadway will add to the Christmas shopping offer with

a Christmas Market for you to shop local and choose that special gift.

www.visit-swale.co.uk/sheerness-christmas-market-lantern-parade-and-lights-switch-on/

Sunday 2 December Christmas at Brogdale



Shop, eat and be merry at Brogdale, Faversham. Enjoy a mince pie and a festive tippie while shopping for locally made gifts from the local produce market. Take a ride on the magical Faversham miniature railway to Santa's grotto, hunt for the secret elf doors to the North Pole, get stuck into kids crafts and more!

www.brogdalecollections.org

Sunday 9 December Faversham Gift Market

The second of the special Christmas markets taking place in the heart of Faversham's town centre. Packed full of locally produced food, drink and gift stalls, you can complete all your shopping in one go!

With carols, music and entertainment galore, it is a fantastic family market.

www.favershammarket.org

Tuesday 11 December A Christmas Carol at The Criterion Cinema



The Criterion Cinema will be showing A Christmas Carol.

Based on Charles Dickens's own performance adaptation, Simon Callow and director Tom Cairns have created a one-man theatrical extravaganza of festive storytelling that is both heart-warming and deeply moving.

Following critically acclaimed, sold-out theatre seasons in 2011, 2012 and again in 2016, Simon Callow (Four Weddings and a Funeral, Shakespeare in Love) returns to wow audiences with this tour de force performance, re-imagined especially for cinema. A Christmas must see!

Tickets are £15 and can be booked through the Criterion Blue Town website.

www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk

14 – 24 December Jack and the Beanstalk at Swallows Leisure Centre

It will be a giant of a show this Christmas at the Swallows Leisure Centre as Jack and the Beanstalk comes to Sittingbourne for the 8th annual Christmas Pantomime.

Coronation Street's "Ashley" Steven Arnold will play the giant's evil henchman, Fleshcreep, and will star alongside Tom Balmont as Jack, Katie Burke as Princess

Jill, Olivia McLaughlin as Fairy Beansprout, Harry Moore as Dame Trott and the Kent School of Dance.

Ticket prices start from £8.50.

www.sittingbournepanto.co.uk

Sunday 16 December Faversham Gift Market



This is the last chance before Christmas to visit the special Faversham Christmas Market and pick up something from one of the gift stalls. Or you can get something special for Christmas day at one of the many food and drink stalls.

It's the perfect place for your last minute Christmas shopping!

www.favershammarket.org

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found on the new and improved Visit Swale website 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 contact us with your listings by emailing tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk

And don't forget to follow us on social media:

 [@Visit_Swale](https://twitter.com/Visit_Swale)

 [VisitSwale](https://www.facebook.com/VisitSwale)

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.

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 twelfth year, celebrate excellence in business across the borough and continue to grow every year. This year was the biggest year yet, with the highest number of applications received in the awards history. Due to the quality of the entries 24 finalists were shortlisted by the judges rather than the usual 17.



Cllr Cameron Beart, deputy cabinet member for regeneration, said: "These awards are steadily becoming harder and harder to judge as each year the businesses just keep getting better.

"The finalists spanned a large range of sectors and businesses of all sizes. But they were just a small representation of the high quality companies from across the borough. Although not everyone could win, every single one of the finalists should be proud of themselves."

Unipet International was the overall winner, being named Swale Business of the Year 2018. The company has been operating since 1993 and have entered the awards previously. The judges were really impressed with the company's strategic direction and commitment to significant investment in its capital equipment.

The winners on the night were:

- **Entrepreneur of the Year** – Denise Riggs (Kesson Physio)
- **Swale Small Business of the Year** – AngelsLocks Ltd.
- **Faversham Business of the Year** – D-Dee's Day Nursery
- **Sheppey Business of the Year** – Kent Catering Service
- **Sittingbourne Business of the Year** – Burden Bros Agri
- **Employer of the Year** – Tribeca Technology Group
- **Customer Services and Commitment Award** – No Place Like Home Ltd.
- **Impact in the Community Award** – Sheppey Matters Community Radio
- **Judges' Special Award** – Bennett Opie

As well as the presentation of the awards, the evening also included a charity raffle, which raised £1,219 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 2019 please visit www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk. Don't forget to follow the awards via social media to receive the latest updates!



Unwrap your business potential



Thought about starting your own business? Already got a hobby you'd like to spend more time on?

Swale Means Business offer a FREE monthly Starting in Business workshop, which can help you to develop your business ideas, overcome barriers to success and realise your potential. It covers all the fundamental elements you need to consider when starting up in business.

Do you know who your customers are, how to market effectively, what, when, where and how you'll sell and what your finance and funding options are? Attending this workshop will help you get your business up and running and provide you with the opportunity to compile a thorough business plan. To find out more or to book your place please visit www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk or call **01795 417398**.

Air quality plans

We take air quality in Swale very seriously, and are making progress on an action plan that will focus on local and strategic measures aimed at improving air quality.

Swale currently has five air quality management areas (AQMAs), which are East Street, St Pauls, Newington, Teynham and Ospringe. Our draft Air Quality Action Plan sets out proposals for measures we could use in areas with high levels of air pollution. These will not only help to improve air quality in the AQMAs but will also benefit the whole borough.

The proposals include a number of measures such as reducing the volume of HGV traffic using the A2 and encouraging smoother traffic flows through the AQMAs. To deliver these, we're recommending a new clean air zone/corridor in the borough, and are revising planning guidance on air quality.

As part of these plans there will be a consultation so that parish and town councils, community groups and residents can give their views. To find out more, about our draft Air Quality Action Plan visit www.swale.gov.uk/Cabinet-discuss-air-quality-plans



Feature

Christmas opening hours

	Swale House Sittingbourne	Sheppey Gateway Sheerness	Alexander Centre Faversham
Friday 21 December	8.45am – 4pm	8.45am – 4pm	8.45am – 4pm
Monday 24 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday 25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wednesday 26 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Thursday 27 December	8.45 – 4pm	8.45am – 4pm	Closed
Friday 28 December	8.45 – 4pm	8.45am – 4pm	Closed
Monday 31 December	8.45 – 4pm	8.45am – 4pm	Closed
Tuesday 1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wednesday 2 January	8.45 – 5pm (normal hours)		

Work on new leisure quarter starts

Work to build a new cinema, hotel and restaurants in Sittingbourne has begun.

The latest stage of the Spirit of Sittingbourne town centre regeneration project sees work begin on the new leisure quarter, which will be home to The Light cinema, Travelodge hotel, and restaurants including Pizza Express and Nando's.



Cllr Mike Cosgrove with Cllr Andrew Bowles inspect the plan on site.

The contractors PDR began setting up on site last month, after works to realign the A2 St Michael's Road by the train station freed up the land.

Leader of the council, Cllr Andrew Bowles, who visited the site prior to groundwork starting with Cllr Mike Cosgrove, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "There's been a phenomenal amount of progress on the regeneration of the town, which has all been leading to this, the start of the new leisure quarter.

"With work beginning, people and businesses are now seeing that the regeneration they've been waiting for is really happening, and there is a real buzz and excitement about the future for the town."

For more information and updates on the regeneration scheme, visit

www.spiritofsittingbourne.com



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The next local plan

The council is continuing to gather evidence to help shape the next plan for housing, transport, community services and facilities across the borough.

The current Local Plan was adopted in 2017 and sets out planning policies, how land is used, and what will be built where, until 2031. It also requires that a new plan is adopted by 2023, which deals with how the capacity of the local road network, especially the A2, can be dealt with.

The new Local Plan will also need to address the probability of the government increasing the borough's current housing target of 776 per year, to more than 1,050 from 2022.

Cllr Gerry Lewin, deputy leader of the council, and cabinet member for planning, said: "The government is setting councils the challenging task of addressing the housing crisis through ever-increasing targets for the number of homes to be built.

"There is still a great deal of evidence to be gathered and considered to support the review, and we want to re-emphasise that no decisions have been made about the kind of approach the review will take, or where additional development land allocations will be made. Much of the information we are currently gathering can be found on the council website.

"We are looking at the possibility of new garden communities being created, as a possible way of dealing with increased housing targets. We're now assessing four schemes that have been proposed and we hope to present the results of this technical assessment to councillors in January, when we would ask them whether we should keep pursuing these as a potential option for the future local plan.

"At this stage, nothing is decided, and we are open-minded about the way forward. This is why we asked people earlier in the year for their thoughts on how we can best approach the task ahead. The thousands of comments we received will be taken into account as we go forward, and we will be asking for more feedback on possible approaches in autumn next year."

Shining a light on diversity at Fusion Festival

Sittingbourne dazzled with colourful lights at the second Swale Fusion Festival of Light. The festival was organised by Cohesion Plus working in partnership with us and Kent Equality Cohesion Council.

The festival began in Sittingbourne High Street with spectacular performances from Bloco Fogo Samba, Folk in Fusion Drumming Collective and the Stilt Batteristas, for festival goers to enjoy.



Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, deputy cabinet member for environment and rural affairs said: “This year’s event was a great success. It proved to be even bigger and better than last year, with over 1,000 people turning up to enjoy the performances and join the parade.

“We would like to thank Cohesion Plus and Kent Equality Cohesion Council for organising the event, and all the partner agencies that got involved to make it the success that it was.”

The festival then continued with a special lantern parade featuring local residents and eight local schools that worked with Same Sky, Ideas Test and Big Fish Arts in the build-up. The festival climaxed in Albany Park which was specially decorated for the evening with ocean themed lights where the evening climaxed with a spectacular firework display.



Eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month

Swale Remembered WW1

Foreword by Cllr. Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council

Over the last few years we've marked the significant milestone of 100 years since the First World War, and this year marks the landmark centenary of the end of WW1. It is a significant moment for Swale but particularly so as Sittingbourne is twinned with Ypres, which was the centre of intense and sustained battles between the German and Allied Forces during WW1.

We have been proud to be supporting acts of remembrance, cultural initiatives and education opportunities since the launch of the community grants scheme in April 2014. A civic service at St. Michael's church in Sittingbourne in August 2014 marked the first of the centenary commemorations, acknowledging the War Memorial Window dating from 1920, and dedicating an interpretation panel.

Heritage has delivered – by Richard Emmett, Chair of Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne (HRGS)

In 2013 the council identified funds for a programme of works to support community groups within Swale. A steering group was established using a balance of elected council members, council officers, and two community representatives for the local schools, and heritage groups which has met bi-monthly since 2013. I was invited by the council to be part of the WW1 steering group as a representative of the Swale Museums Group.

A huge amount of investment of volunteer time, energy and enthusiasm has achieved much. A full list of grants awarded to local organisations together with WW1 commemorative project details can be found at www.swale.gov.uk/ww1-centenary-grants



114 grants

£62,390.86

estimated total WW1
community project value
£450,000 – supported
by grants based on
application information.

WW1 and Swale

The war at home has been remembered by all parts of the borough, from Parish memorials and the research to bring the stories of those named to life, to services remembering significant losses which included:

- The horrendous losses of sailors and dockyard workers in the HMS Bulwark (Nov 1914) and HMS Princess Irene April 1915) explosions off Sheerness.
- The Great Explosion (April 1916) – 105 people from the Faversham area lost their lives in the worst recorded accident in British explosives history.
- The local impact of the war and the personal stories and life of residents in and around Faversham, Sittingbourne and on the Isle of Sheppey, has been told by our local history groups and heritage attractions. Significant WW1 exhibitions have been a feature at the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre (Faversham Society), Blue Town Heritage Centre (Barbed Wire Island) and the Heritage Hub (Sittingbourne WW1 timeline & Sittingbourne Memorials Project, culminating in a Wall of Reflection displayed at the Forum Shopping Centre). The Sheppey WW1 timeline can be found at Rose Street Cottage of Curiosities. With others including the Old Forge Wartime House, Sittingbourne Heritage Museum and Minster Gatehouse and many more reflecting WW1 in displays and activities.



HMS Bulwark, courtesy naval-history.net



Above: The Sheppey WW1 timeline.

Left: WW1 trench at the Old Forge Wartime House.

Below: Donald Dean VC Memorial Stone.



Commemoration in Partnership

Throughout the Centenary period Swale has embraced many of the partnership commemorative initiatives including:

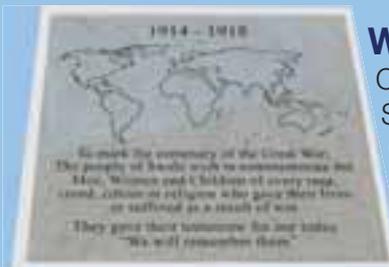
- Lights Out – 4 August 2014, Swale joined the nationwide LIGHTS OUT to mark the day Britain declared war on Germany
- Civic Journey of Commemoration – Recognising the unique relationship with Ypres, the Mayor accompanied by representatives of all of Swale's secondary schools has taken a day trip to pay tribute to The Fallen by laying a wreath on behalf of the borough as part of the annual Armistice Day Service at the Menin Gate.
- VC Stone Memorial Commemoration – The lives and exemplary war services of Donald Dean, Philip Neame and James McCudden were remembered.
- Plant a real Poppy Campaign 2014 – 2018, Swale in Bloom joined forces with many schools, and community groups to mark the centenary by sowing 100 sites around Swale with poppies.
- 30,000th Last Post – Swale took part in 'Ode to Ode' to mark the mark the ceremony at the Menin Gate on 9 July 2015. There was also a special service at Sittingbourne War Memorial supported by the Sittingbourne Branch of the Royal British Legion.
- The Peace Fields Project – The National Children's Football Alliance welcomed participation from Swale area schools
www.childrensfootballalliance.com
- In 2018 the council agreed Life Membership of the Last Post Association, recognising the importance of the daily tribute to those who fell.
- Ambulance Train event in Sittingbourne, Queenborough and Sheerness in conjunction with Kent Community Rail Partnership, featured ex-service associations, 21 community groups and subsequently received an Association of Community Rail Partnerships Award.
- Somme 100 events in Sittingbourne 'Whistle Stop' and 'Hope, Courage and Catastrophe'
- Passchendaele 100 in July 2017
- RAF 100 at Eastchurch Aviation Museum in March 2018
- Battle's Over – A Nations Tribute – Local groups and communities lit beacons of remembrance along with pipers, bell ringers and buglers offering musical tributes.

The council has worked in partnership with Imperial War Museum, National Archives, Heritage Lottery, Arts Council England (ACE), Screen South (Kent in WW1) and Visit Kent (Frontline Kent Campaign).



Educational Legacies

- 'No Limits' – We worked in partnership with Diocese of Canterbury and the Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey on a European project that reflected on the global conflict. It resulted in a cultural showcase performance. The project stimulated further annual school initiatives.
- Local representatives attended the Arras Peace Conference in France, in April 2018. Further youth participation in the 'Peace Concert' curated by Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society in 2018.
- The council supported a series of nine WW1 lectures co-ordinated by HRGS across the Swale area.
- Global migration, an outcome of both the Great War and WW2, has seen residents of all races look back at the role of their descendants in the wars. We acknowledged the work of Sittingbourne based charity 'Diversity House' in delivering the 'Breaking the myths: First World War and Africa' project, which was supported by Heritage Lottery Funding.
- We have also supported a number of books and publications that have been produced to tell the story of Swale in WW1. They are available in many of the borough's heritage attractions.



WW1 Centenary Memorial Stone - On Sunday October 28th the council placed a memorial stone at Sittingbourne War Memorial to mark the end of WW1 Centenary and remember all those who fell and were affected by the Great War.

We have also purchased three WW1 benches which can be found in Faversham, Sheerness and Sittingbourne.



The Avenue of Remembrance has been upgraded with new street signage that includes poppies. Faversham's War Memorial Garden has been redeveloped and opened earlier this month.

Thousands of poppies have been made and displayed as part of large projects at Sheppey Gateway and Murston HeArt Project (Murston Old Church).

At the going down of the sun and in the morning

We will remember them



Cleaner thinking

Smokers across the borough who've dropped their cigarette butts could get a partial refund of their £150 fine if they successfully complete a stop smoking course.

A new scheme introduced in October means that anyone issued a fixed penalty notice (FPN) for dropping smoking related litter can receive a refund of £100 if they successfully complete Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's (KCHFT) free One You Smokefree programme.

We spend significant sums of money cleaning the boroughs streets, and approximately three quarters of the items collected are smoking related. In the last financial year, we issued 1,633 fixed penalty notices for litter across the borough.

The One You Smokefree programme is a six-week course, either in a group or one-to-one with an adviser. Participants receive a personal quit plan and can get nicotine replacement therapy such as patches or gum on prescription for the duration of the course. There are then follow-up tests after six months and 12 months to show they've remained smoke free.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: "We want residents to give up smoking not just for the obvious health benefits, but also to reduce the number of used cigarette butts we have to clean up all across the borough.

"KCHFT offer a brilliant free stopping smoking service, and by working together like this we can improve local people's health and make our streets cleaner.

"The £100 refund can hopefully act as a nudge for smokers to try to improve their health, and if you don't smoke you won't be dropping cigarette butts for us to clean up!"

For help to go Smokefree contact the One You team on **0300 123 1220**, email **kcht.hicentraladmin@nhs.net** or visit **www.kentcht.nhs.uk/oneyou**



More investment in play areas



Four parks in Minster have benefited from a £22,000 investment. New equipment has been installed to offer more activities for a wider range of children to enjoy.



The new toddler play unit at The Glen Play Area, Minster

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: “These improvements are a great addition to the play facilities in the area, and I hope local children enjoy playing with them for years to come.

“We have increased our investment in local play areas and open spaces and are delivering improvements across the borough to help encourage more families to get their children out in the fresh air, doing what they do best – playing.”

The recently completed improvements are:

- **The Glen Play Area, Minster** – new toddler play unit, with climbing, bridge and slide, along with a new toddler swing provides play opportunities to younger children who were not previously catered for by the play area.
- **Noreen Avenue Play Area, Minster** – the addition of a spinner, seesaw and springer to this play area add to the existing slide, roundabout and swings already providing play opportunities for the local children to enjoy.



The new swing at Lovell Road Play Area

- **New Road Sports Area, Minster** – a new football goal end along with improvements to the fencing will ensure children can stay healthy whilst having fun.
- **Lovell Road Play Area, Minster** – a new swing has been added to the range of play units and roundabout for local children to enjoy.

The works were paid for from funds collected from local developments.

There are also plans to replace the 30 year old galleon ship at the Beachfields sandpit play area, and replace equipment, including play units and swings, at Rectory Playing Field play area by Easter next year.



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Central Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME10 4NT
Tel: **01795 420 420**

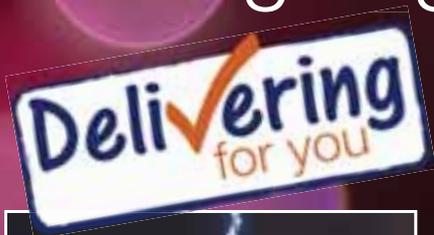


@SwiminSwale



/SwaleLeisureCentres

Shining bright this Christmas



We have been spreading some extra cheer ahead of Christmas with £25,000 to support Christmas lights across Swale.

The festive display grant was set up to help local organisations provide Christmas displays, in towns and villages across the borough.

Organisations were invited in October to apply for funding to support Christmas display projects.

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, cabinet member for finance and performance, said: "We know that local communities take great pride when they're getting into the Christmas spirit, and these displays bring smiles to the faces of visitors and locals alike.

"We made this funding available to help local organisations that might want to update or improve their displays, or to help people put on displays in areas that haven't had one before."

After submitting applications, the funding was provided early in November so that organisations could prepare for Christmas.



How to have a cleaner, greener Christmas

Whether we like it or not, the festive season always seems to generate more rubbish than at any other time of year. Wrapping paper, pulled crackers, food packaging, empty chocolate tubs, toy packaging, food waste, it all builds up. So where does it all go?

If you're not sure what to do with it all, or perhaps just want to know a little more about what bin you should pop something in, try our Waste Wizard on www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling. You can simply type in the item you want to know about, and the Waste Wizard will let you know where it should go.

Alternatively you can head over to one of our recycling roadshows. You can ask the team any recycling questions you may have to help you better understand what to do with your Christmas waste.

Recycling roadshows

Monday 3 December
Sheerness Gateway
11am-2pm

Friday 7 December
12 Market Place, Faversham
11am-2pm

Wednesday 12 December
Sittingbourne Asda
11am-2pm

Lots of leftovers?

What do you do with your leftovers when you feel that you are close to bursting at Christmas? Or what about that extra pack of mince pies you got because you didn't think you would have enough, which is now going untouched?

Christmas can generate lots of leftovers, but why not try and cut down on the festive food waste with some simple tips?

Cook it – there are lots of things you can do with your leftover turkey and trimmings. Why not try a tasty turkey curry this Boxing Day? There are plenty of recipes online. Try out the



www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipe/turkey-and-chickpea-coconut-curry



Love Food Hate Waste website, and use their search to find out what you can do with your Christmas leftovers www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/recipes

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

Recycle it – Anything that you can't use up can go in your black and orange food waste bin. If you need help with what can and can't go in your food waste bin, visit www.swale.gov.uk/food-waste

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



Do the scrunch test!

Christmas can be a confusing time when it comes to recycling. For example, not all wrapping paper can be recycled. Some is made up of non-recyclable plastic.

But there is a quick and easy way to check which bin it should go in. Simply do the scrunch test! 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, then pop it in your general waste.

Or if it is too pretty to throw away, you can always fold it up and save it for next year.



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

With the winter weather 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 Saturday 8 December from 10am to 2pm at:

Rose Street Car Park, Sheerness
Library Car Park, Sittingbourne
Central Car Park, Faversham



Your revised recycling and waste collections for Christmas and New Year

If your normal collection day for either recycling, refuse, garden waste or clinical waste is on:	Your revised collection day for either recycling, refuse & garden waste will be on:	Revised collection day for Clinical Waste will be on:
Monday 24 December	→ Monday 24 December	No collection
Christmas Day	→ Thursday 27 December	No collection
Boxing Day	→ Friday 28 December	Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 27 December	→ Saturday 29 December	Thursday 27 December
Friday 28 December	→ Monday 31 December	Friday 28 December
Monday 31 December	→ Tuesday 1 January	No collection
Tuesday 1 January	→ Wednesday 2 January	No collection
Wednesday 2 January	→ Thursday 3 January	Wednesday 2 January
Thursday 3 January	→ Friday 4 January	Thursday 3 January
Friday 4 January	→ Saturday 5 January	Friday 4 January
Monday 7 January	→ All collections return to normal	

For example, if your blue bin, green bin or brown bin is usually collected on Christmas Day it will now be collected on Thursday 27 December.

Don't know when your collection days are? Visit our website www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day

Don't forget, if your blue bin is full you can always put side waste out in empty cardboard boxes or clear sacks – but please remember, **NO BLACK SACKS**.

Bulky item collections

For those who wish to book a bulky item collections, there will be **no collections** from **Monday 24 December**. They will resume again as normal on **Monday 7 January**.

Recycling and refuse collection dates

If you are unsure of your collection week, go to www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day and click the link 'Next Bin Collection', or call Customer Services on **01795 417888**.



Blue wheelie bin collection week



Green wheelie bin collection week



For collections during the New Year period please refer to page 28.

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

Week 1 collections

January 2019

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 2019

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

March 2019

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 2019

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 2019

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

March 2019

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

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



Swale – Official White Ribbon Borough



After two years of hard work, our Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been named an official White Ribbon Borough – a marker of our commitment to tackling domestic violence.

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.

We're working with local sports clubs to help them

to achieve White Ribbon status. Sports clubs and venues are in an ideal position to promote healthy masculinity and promote the White Ribbon message. The clubs and organisations that have signed up so far are:

- **Sheppey Rugby Football Club**
- **Sittingbourne Rugby Club**
- **Sittingbourne Football Club**
- **Swale Community Leisure**

Sittingbourne Rugby Club was one of the first clubs to officially become accredited, placing an even greater emphasis on endorsement at every level of the club, sending a clear message to players, members and fans that male violence and bullying against women will not be tolerated. A launch event took place on Sunday 22 July at the club ground, and officers from the campaign ran workshops around healthy relationships and a 'make your pledge' stall.

Alan Horton, cabinet member for housing and safer communities, commented: "We're proud to have the official White Ribbon Borough status, but our hard work is far from over. We want to engage with as many groups as possible to encourage them to gain White Ribbon status.

"By educating as many people as possible in the community about healthy relationships, we are doing what we can to help end male violence against women."

If you need advice or support, visit www.sateda.org or call **01795 417251**. Find out more about the White Ribbon campaign and take the pledge please visit www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk.



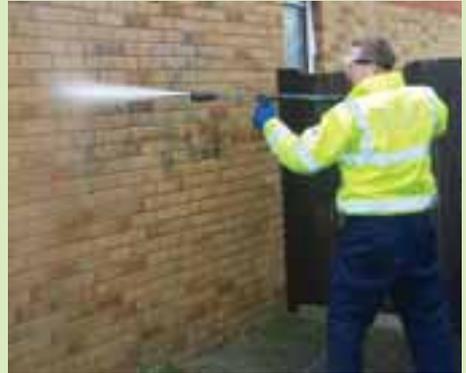
Left, Roger Down, Chairman of Sittingbourne Rugby Club and right, Chris Green OBE, Founder of White Ribbon UK.

Focus Neighbourhood Project

The CSP has been working with a number of agencies to engage more with local communities to find out what really matters to them, and to help work towards cleaner and safer neighbourhoods.

Sittingbourne Town Centre – working with partner agencies – including Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Services and Swale Youth Forum, and our licensing, revenue and benefits, and environmental response teams – the CSP worked in Sittingbourne to help deliver a series of improvements across the town.

After doing an initial walkabout, the teams identified areas that could use some extra attention. The town saw a week of deep cleans of car parks and the high street, litter picks, graffiti removal, and more. We are looking to hold similar weeks like this for Sheppey and Faversham.



Middletune Avenue – The CSP held a community fun day in August and an event earlier in November with a focus on firework night safety.

Thistle Hill – We held a large Halloween event in October. The fun day was a way for residents to engage with various agencies. Each had a stall to provide support and information, including Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, local Children Centres and our environmental and cleansing teams to name just a few. There were also plenty of fun activities for all to get involved in, including bouncy castles, Halloween arts and crafts, fancy dress competition and more.

Quinton Road – We held a small Halloween event which included the community chef, arts and crafts and a fancy dress competition as well as a multi-agency walkabout to inspect the appearance of the estate.

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for more information

Are you ready for winter



Part of preparing for winter is making sure you know what to do if there's a power cut. Although increasingly rare, they can still happen especially during severe weather. They can be particularly worrying for people in vulnerable circumstances.

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

The company has a Priority Services Register, providing free additional support and advice to pensioners, families with young children and people with special needs, disabilities or health conditions during power cuts. To apply to be included on the register visit www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority, call **0800 169 9970**, or email psr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk.

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

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

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

Stay warm this winter

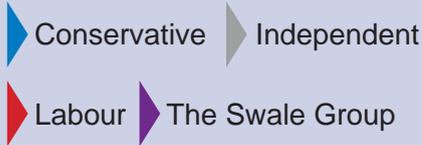
We've been working in partnership with Kent County Council on the Warm Homes project to help you save energy this winter.

This scheme can offer you a quote from a Warm Homes trusted contractor to install loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, or heating systems in your home. The scheme also means you can be assessed to see if you are eligible for national and local funding.

To find out more about the scheme, visit www.kent.gov.uk/about-the-council/campaigns-and-events/warm-homes



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