

Autumn 2014

# inside Swale

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue



4

Sittingbourne moving in the right direction



6

Our pick of things to do this Autumn



14

Donald Dean VC remembered



25

Meet Swale's graffiti busting team



**Swale**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Making Swale a better place

# Join the Resolution

Achieve your fitness goals at  
**Swale Leisure Centres**

WITH YOUR  
**FREE  
7 DAY  
PASS**

Kickstart your exercise regime  
this Autumn and get fit



Download your free 7 day pass today at:  
**swaleleisure.com/freepass**

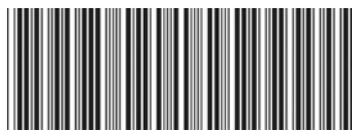
Includes: Gym, Swim, Courts & Classes!

**FAMILY  
FUN DAY**  
6th SEPTEMBER

For full details visit: **swaleleisure.com**

Sheppey Leisure Complex  
Tel: 01795 668 061

Swallows Leisure Centre  
Tel: 01795 420 420



\*The Free Multi-activity Pass can include three activities such as the gym, the swimming pool or a workout class. One Pass per person, adults only. Pass valid until 31st October. Subject to availability.





# Welcome

## to the autumn edition of Inside Swale

The days of scraping leftover Sunday lunch into the bin at home are over. Like a large number of you I am getting into the habit of recycling what cannot be eaten at the table.

In April, Swale Borough Council launched weekly food waste collections and I'm delighted to say you've already got a taste for it with 850 tonnes collected in the first three months alone.

This issue reveals the impact this is having on recycling overall as well as offering a useful reminder of the wide range of items that can now be collected from your doorstep.

Your council works hard to boost the local economy, offering help in whatever way it can to support local businesses. One new initiative set for launch soon is a High Street pop up shop. The idea will be a space where

entrepreneurs can trial ideas – be it for a couple of weeks or months – that could take Swale and beyond by storm.

*Inside Swale* has more on this scheme, including how to register your interest in setting up shop. It could be the opportunity your business is looking for.

Talking of businesses and regeneration in general, consultation has been taking place over recent months on plans to breathe new life into the heart of Sittingbourne. Turn the page for the latest on the Spirit of Sittingbourne project.

And finally, the nights may be drawing in but that shouldn't stop you getting out and about this autumn. Inside are a few suggestions of things to do over the coming weeks, ranging from jazz nights in Blue Town to open days at Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway. For more ideas take a look at: [www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk) Enjoy!

*Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader*

## Contact us

### Swale Borough Council

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

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

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

phone: 01795 417 850

facebook: [Swale Borough Council](https://www.facebook.com/SwaleBoroughCouncil)

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



Do you have difficulty in understanding this magazine? Do you need it in Braille, large print or on audio CD? For translations or interpretations contact us and we will do our best to help.

**Tel: 01795 417 850**

**Email: [csc@swale.gov.uk](mailto:csc@swale.gov.uk)**

## Contents

**News** 4

**Embracing Localism** 12

**Open for Business** 21

**Healthy Environment** 24

**Your Councillors** 30

*Inside Swale is written and designed by Swale Borough Council's Communications and Marketing Team and distributed to 58,000+ homes.*

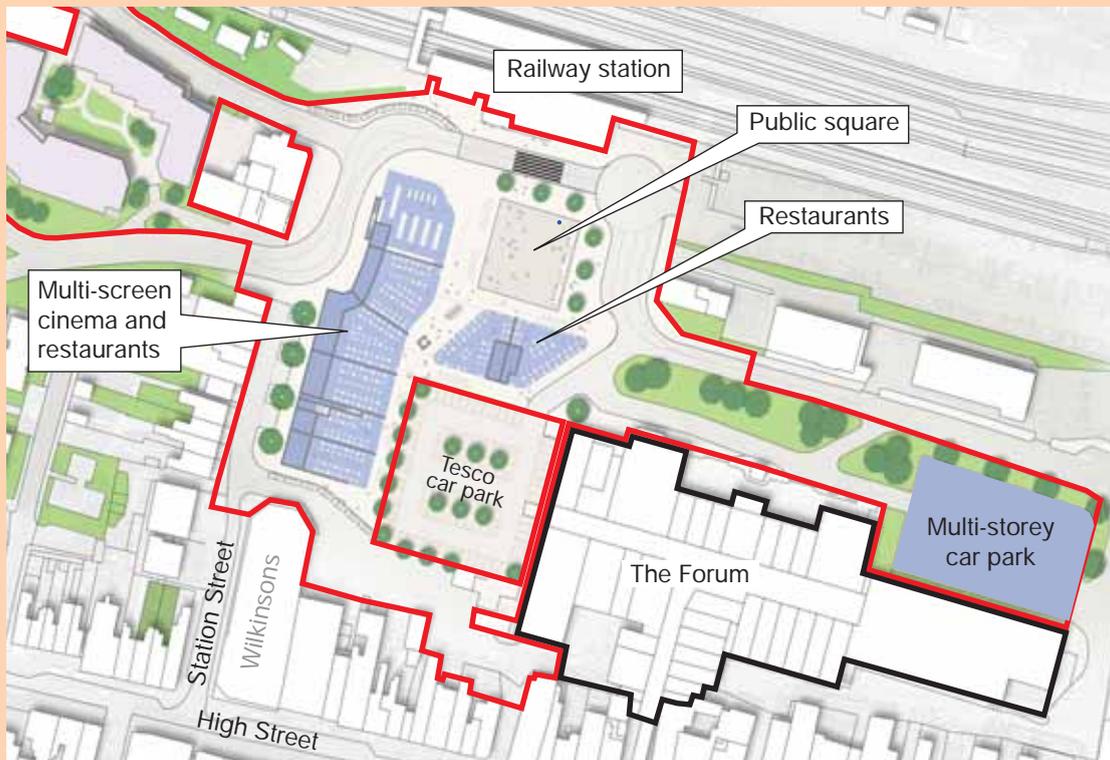
### For advertising or editorial

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

phone: 01795 417 149

*Cover photo: Amy Luckhurst, five, from Newington, waters poppies sown under the village sign on the A2.*

## The regeneration of Sittingbourne



Over the summer Spirit of Sittingbourne, the consortium leading the project, has been asking for your views on its vision.

Through September there have been roadshows and other events explaining the proposals – all giving local people and businesses the chance to have their say.

This will continue into the autumn with residents getting further opportunities to comment once a planning application for the proposals are finalised and submitted to Swale Borough Council for final approval.



# Town Centre moves a step closer



*Steering the way towards a better future for the High Street*

Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of Swale Borough Council, said:

*“This is the beginning of a new future for Sittingbourne in general, and the High Street in particular. It is also one of the most important developments within this Town since I became Leader of the Council.*

*“Subject to planning approval, phase one will see the opening of the multi-screen cinema complex plus associated restaurants and shops; all of which will help drive an increased footfall through the entire High Street.”*

Developer Quinn Estates will be responsible for the planning application and construction of phase one.

They have appointed Guy Hollaway Architects to prepare designs and refine their ideas following consultation with residents.

Phase one of the development will include:

- a multi-screen cinema with restaurants and shops close to the existing Forum Shopping Centre;
- a new public square to the front of Sittingbourne Railway Station;
- new homes on Cockleshell Walk, Spring Street and Dover Road;
- a multi-storey car park on St Michael's Road; and
- highways improvements providing better Town Centre access for pedestrians and public transport.

To find out more about how your Council is improving your borough visit:

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

# Visit Swale

Swale is an area steeped in history with picturesque gardens, parks and beautiful countryside to explore, plus lots of events and festivals throughout the year – and it's all on your doorstep too. *Enjoy!*



Oare Gunpowder Works  
Country Park

## Heritage hikes



Put on your boots and enjoy an autumnal stroll to the birth of aviation in Britain at Muswell Manor, Sheppey; or explosively fascinating Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park near Faversham.



## Blue Town Jazz

Enjoy a night of jazz at the Blue Town Heritage Centre in Sheerness with the Blue Rhythm Kings on 22 November. Other events coming up include a meander down memory lane with Dean Caston and Alan Godman on 16 November.

For more events visit:

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

To book call **01795 662 981**.



## Get on board

It's not too late to get on board The Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway, tucked away in a beautiful corner of the North Kent Downs. Open days take place on 5 and 26 October.

Enjoy a ride on the steam train, take a stroll through the woods, have a picnic, or just listen to the Dutch organ in the tea room while enjoying a cup of tea and a cake.

To find out more visit: [www.bwlr.co.uk](http://www.bwlr.co.uk)

## Take to the stage

Journey to Las Vegas at the Avenue Theatre in Central Avenue, Sittingbourne, as Elvis Presley impersonator Gary Jay recreates one of the concerts of the late King of Rock'n' Roll on 21 November.

For more upcoming shows, including the WWI themed Love and Courage from 12-15 November and An Evening with Marlene Dietrich on 4 October, visit: [www.avenuetheatre.co.uk](http://www.avenuetheatre.co.uk)



## Festive lights

It's time to start counting down the days to the Faversham Christmas Light Switch On and Street Feast night market taking place in and around The Market Place on 29 November. There will also be lights switch on events in Sittingbourne on 29 November and Sheerness on 6 December. To find out more click on [www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk)

If you have an event taking place in the run up to Christmas let us know and we'll put it on the Visit Swale website.

Email: [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417 399

**For more going out ideas in Swale visit:  
[www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk)**

## Budget control helps to keep council tax bills low

Improvements to the way services are managed at Swale Borough Council delivered a budget underspend of £566,000 for the last financial year.

Increased income from planning and Council owned properties, plus savings on contracts with suppliers, have also played their part in ensuring services are protected and council tax bills kept low.

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, Cabinet Member for Finance, said: *“The ability to manage finances soundly is why we have been able to hold Council Tax at it’s current level for the last four years.*

*“We continue to provide cost efficient and high quality key services to the community, saving money wherever we can to help keep Council Tax low for our residents.”*

Improvements over the past year have ranged from enhanced waste and food recycling to the Council’s active promotion of events to mark the start of World War One.



## Individual Electoral Registration

The system of registering to vote has now changed to individual electoral registration.

By now, you should have received a letter from the Electoral Registration Officer advising whether any action is required. The majority of you will simply be re-registered automatically on the IER register and will not need to do anything further. However, some people will need to respond.

If you have been asked to register again, or are not currently on the electoral register (for example you have just moved to the Borough), the quickest way to register is using the on-line system [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote). It only takes a few minutes to do, and you can use a PC, tablet or mobile to do this. You will need your national insurance number too. Alternatively, call our Customer Services Team who will be able to help you with your registration.

To find out more information about the changes to the electoral registration system, visit:

[www.gov.uk/yourvotematters](http://www.gov.uk/yourvotematters)

### By-election called

Voters in Sheppey Central Ward will go to the polls on Thursday 16 October to elect a new representative. The by-election follows the death of Cllr John Morris in May this year.

# Recycling more than ever



The amount of waste recycled in Swale has risen sharply over recent months, and it's all thanks to you – with a bit of help from us.

In April your Council introduced weekly collections of food waste and it's already making a difference – along with other recycling – with around 1,200 tonnes less waste overall now going to landfill.

Between April and June more than 850 tonnes of food waste was collected and sent for composting. Over the same period the amount of waste overall fell from an average 583kg per household collection last year to 496kg for 2014.

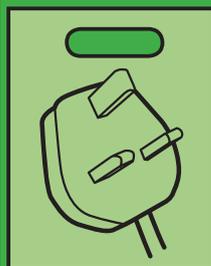
Your leftovers and vegetable peelings are taken to a processing plant where it is mixed with other organic waste to produce soil improver for use on agricultural land.

Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet member for Environmental and Rural Affairs, said: *“Before the introduction of food waste collections residents were recycling 32 per cent of their household waste. This has now risen to over 40 per cent.*

*“The changes we have made to the service are clearly making a big difference. We have made it easier than ever for residents to recycle and they are doing just that. Long may it continue.”*

## Did you know?

When your green bin is collected we can also take:

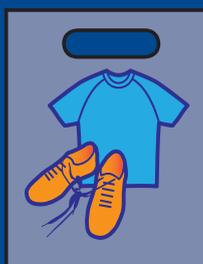


**Small electricals** radios, toasters, kettles etc., in a carrier bag alongside your green bin. **Items must fit inside a standard carrier bag please.**



**Household Batteries** Placed in a tied up carrier bag **on top of your green bin lid.** Not inside the bin!

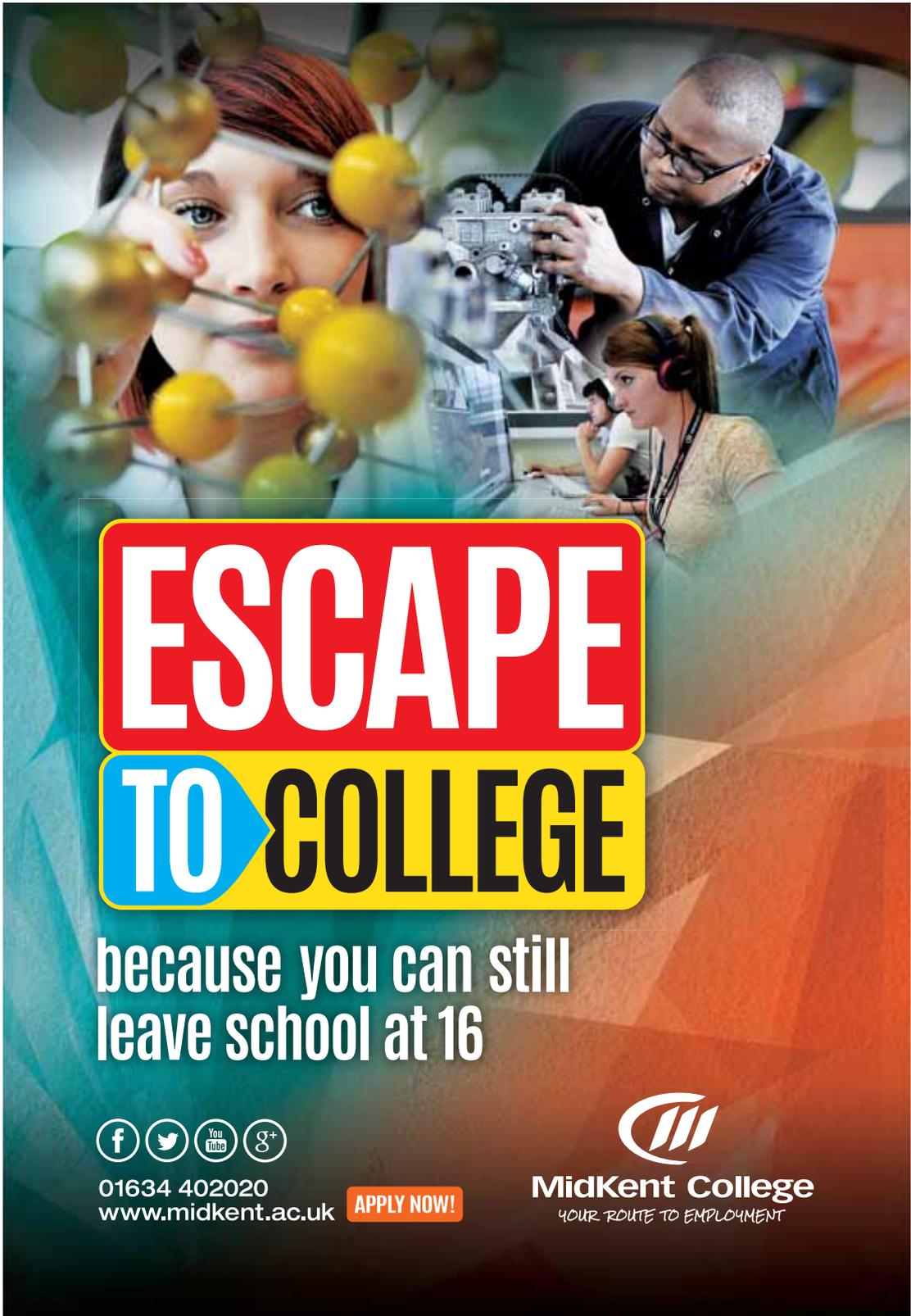
When your blue bin is collected we can also take:



**Textiles** Clothes, shoes, sheets, curtains, towels, in a carrier bag alongside your blue bin. Only one bag per collection. **NO duvets or pillows.**

**Why not subscribe to fortnightly garden waste collections for £35 a year?**

For garden waste subscriptions and other waste and recycling information visit: [www.swale.gov.uk/bins-recycling](http://www.swale.gov.uk/bins-recycling) or call the waste enquiries line on **01795 417 888.**



# ESCAPE TO COLLEGE

because you can still  
leave school at 16



01634 402020  
[www.midkent.ac.uk](http://www.midkent.ac.uk)

**APPLY NOW!**



**MidKent College**  
YOUR ROUTE TO EMPLOYMENT



## Sports grants scheme

Swale Youth Projects is the first to benefit from a new grant scheme to help local clubs and organisations fund projects to attract more people into sport.

Swale Borough Council has allocated £20,000 for this financial year for its Sport and Physical Grant Scheme. Applications of up to £1,000 will be considered.

The grant of £241.90 allowed Swale Youth Projects to offer a full range of activities for its school holiday summer programme.

To apply for a grant or to find out more visit:

[www.swale.gov.uk/sport-and-physical-activity-grant](http://www.swale.gov.uk/sport-and-physical-activity-grant)  
or email: [activeswale@swale.gov.uk](mailto:activeswale@swale.gov.uk)

## Be a decision maker

The Council has produced a guide for prospective candidates for May's local elections. It includes

information on how to stand as a local councillor, what to expect and the support they will receive.

The guide is available to view at [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk) or paper copies can be requested by contacting Democratic Services on **01795 417 360** or e-mailing [democraticservices@swale.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@swale.gov.uk)



### CARE SISTERS LIMITED

Domiciliary Care Service

#### Do you need help for yourself or a loved one?

Care Sisters Limited is a well established care provider, providing high quality care to people in their home and community environment.



We offer a comprehensive range of specialist care packages, which takes into account the assessed needs and individual requirements of each person.

- 24 hour care live-in
- Daily Supported visits
- Assistance at home due to illness/hospital visits, escorted visits and doctors appointments

For further information please contact:

Tel: **01795-482427**

Email: [caresister@gmail.com](mailto:caresister@gmail.com)

[www.caresisters.webs.com](http://www.caresisters.webs.com)

## Top honour for cadet



Sheppey Sea Cadet Shaun Lock has every reason to look ship shape after receiving his Cadet of the Year award from Mayor of Swale, Cllr George Bobbin.

Lt Brian Moore, Commanding Officer for Sheppey Sea Cadets, said: *"I am delighted Shaun has won this award."*

## Young writers commemorate WW1 centenary

Pupils from across Swale were asked to give their personal take on World War One for a poetry and creative writing competition to mark 100 years since the conflict began.

The winning entries, presented by Council Leader, Cllr Andrew Bowles at Oasis Academy on the Isle of Sheppey, all received a certificate and book as well as a £100 prize for their school.

Students were asked to write up to 500 words in verse or prose, using the theme of 'Remembrance' with all entries encouraged to think in terms of peace and reconciliation.

### Community grants available

Swale Borough Council is committed to help support the local community to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War.

In 2013 the WW1 Centenary steering group was created to oversee projects in Swale, with a localism grant scheme launched to provide grants of up to £750 to community organisations wishing to mark the anniversary.

So far 16 grants have been paid out, with more in the pipeline. To find out more about apply for grants or upcoming events visit:  
[www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1](http://www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1)

'Plant a Real Poppy Campaign' projects have also proved popular with 51 sites identified so far across Swale, with an estimated 14 million poppy seeds distributed by the Council.



*Pupils from St George's School perform at the Swale Poetry Competition event.*

This is an excerpt from a poem written by Finley Barker, one of the winning entries:

**“Remember the  
thousands who went off  
to war  
Remember the pain and  
tragedy they saw  
Remember the brave to  
which we owe a debt  
So for this year and  
forever, lest we forget”**



## Mayor to honour fallen in Ypres

The Mayor of Swale, Cllr George Bobbin, will join representatives from the Borough's nine secondary schools at Armistice Day events at Ypres, Belgium, on Tuesday, 11 November.

Students will join the Mayor at a wreath laying ceremony at the Menin Gate memorial before going on a tour of historic sites connected to the war that was meant to end all wars.

Sittingbourne is twinned with Ypres, where some of the fiercest battles on the Western Front were fought and where thousands of soldiers lost their lives.

## Remembrance services across Swale

Services of remembrance and wreath laying will take place across Swale at 11am on Sunday, 9 November.

The Mayor of Swale, Cllr George Bobbin, will attend the service at The War Memorial, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne.

In Sheerness, following a service at The Cenotaph, a procession will take place through the High Street to the Holy Trinity Church, The Broadway, for a service starting at 11.45am.

The Mayor of Faversham, town councillor Nigel Kay, will lead dignitaries at the wreath laying service at the Stone Street war memorial, with a service in the parish church of St Mary of Charity starting 11.25am.

At 11am on Armistice Day, 11 November, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Anita Walker, will attend a service and lay a wreath at the Cross of Sacrifice, Sheerness Cemetery, followed by planting of crosses on the war graves nearby.

For the full list of services visit [www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1](http://www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1)

## Local hero honoured

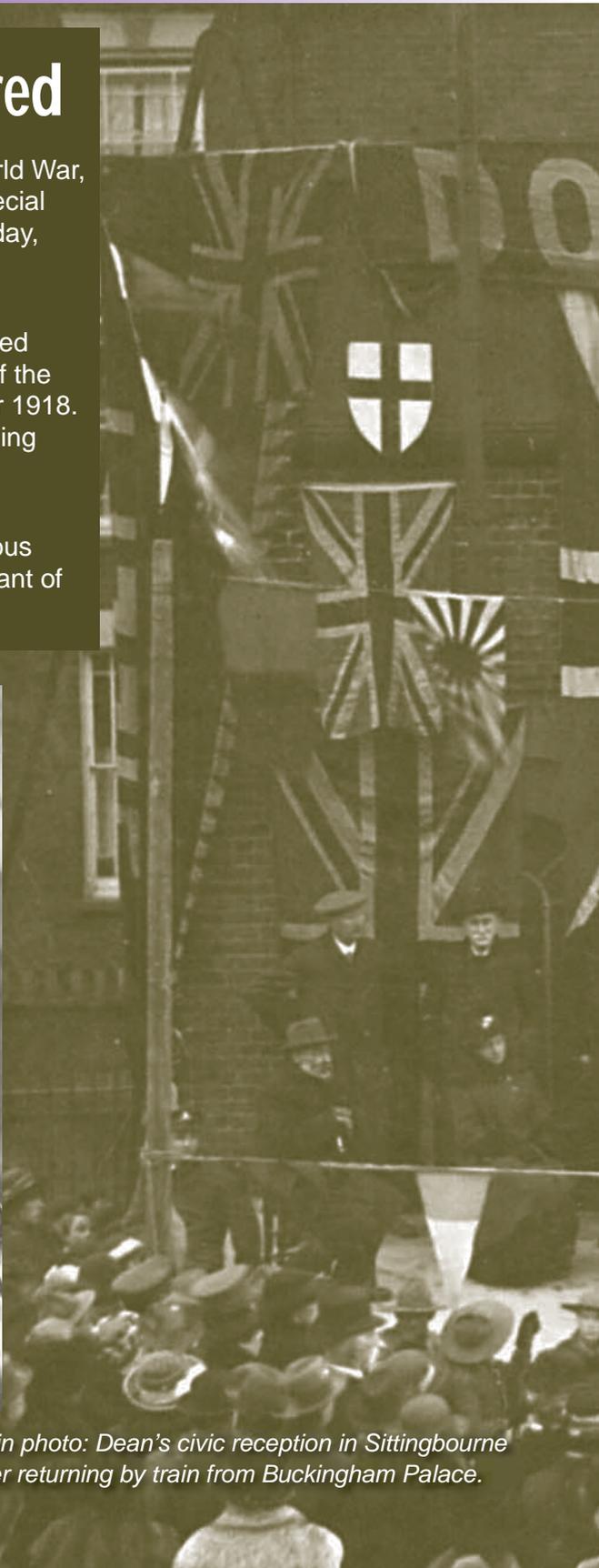
One of the local heroes of the First World War, Donald Dean, will be honoured at a special service taking place at 2.30pm on Sunday, 9 November at the Sittingbourne War Memorial in Central Avenue.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross, aged just 21, for bravery shown during one of the final battles of the conflict in September 1918. A specially inscribed paving stone is being dedicated in his honour.

The ceremony will be attended by his daughter, Susan Bavin, as well as various dignitaries including Vice Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Richard Oldfield.



*Above: Lieutenant Dean in 1917*



*Main photo: Dean's civic reception in Sittingbourne after returning by train from Buckingham Palace.*



*Faversham welcomes Captain Neame R.E., V.C. in July 1915.*

A second WWI dedication event, this time in honour of Sir Philip Neame VC, will take place in Market Place, Faversham, on 19 December. See the next edition of *Inside Swale* for full details.



## Blue Town Heritage Centre

Localism is all about helping Swale's clubs, groups and organisations to thrive. Over the coming editions of Inside Swale we will focus on places and people making a real difference to their community. We start with a real gem: The Blue Town Heritage Centre in Sheerness.



Two years have passed since Ian and Jenny Hurkett realised their dream of bringing a forgotten music hall back to life.

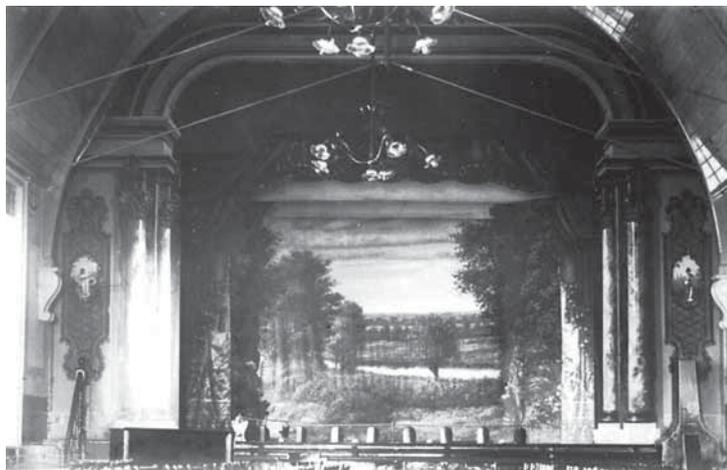
Built in 1841, and then re-built after a fire in 1868, the place had several names before finally becoming the Criterion Music Hall, and from 1900 Sheppey's first cinema. It closed after suffering bomb damage in 1917.

Today it attracts visitors from across Kent to music hall shows

held three times a year, complete with a vintage cream tea. Friday film nights are also held, with part of the building given over to an exhibition detailing the heritage of Blue Town, as well as wartime Sheppey and Sheerness Dockyard.

There are also full day tours of the Dockyard and Isle of Sheppey and pre-show tours of the buildings for coach parties and groups. There is also a tearoom serving up light refreshments.

The Blue Town Heritage project was started by Ian and Jenny who bought the building and with the help of volunteers have created a local attraction that brought in 12,000 visitors to Sheppey last year.



They hope to match that success shortly with the opening of an aviation annexe at Eastchurch telling the story of Sheppey's role in the development of aviation.

To find out more visit: [www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk](http://www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk) or ring the box office on **01795 662 981**.

## Best in Kent target for Charlie

Like anyone skilled with a bow and arrow Charlie Collis loves a target.

The 15-year-old from Sittingbourne has shown an outstanding talent for archery after joining his local club, with plans to represent Kent in the junior indoor and outdoor national tournament.



Cllr Mike Whiting presents Charlie with his grant.

The Council has done its bit to support Charlie's ambition, awarding him a grant from its sports legacy fund on the suggestion of the Swale Youth Development Fund (SYDF).

SYDF was set up by former mayor Cllr Richard Moreton nearly 30 years ago to support youth talent in Swale. Charlie was awarded an initial grant before being successfully considered for the sports legacy scheme.

Charlie's mother Cymantha, said: *"He has had some complex learning and health difficulties but has overcome them with his determination and drive."*

*"These grants will help his ambition of being the best junior archer in Kent."*

Sports legacy grants were also presented to:

- Daniel Kemp, 17, for cricket
- Harrison Hoad, 10, for artistic gymnastics
- Rachael Page, 14, for artistic gymnastics
- Katie Foreman, 12, for taekwondo

Councillor Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, said: *"They are all outstanding candidates and if this contribution can help them go forward with improved coaching, better equipment, or simply to meet ever rising entry fees, that will be money well spent."*

Grants are available not just for sports but also music, dance, drama, or anything that helps young people to make the most of their talents and opportunities.

To apply for a grant visit: [www.swaleyouthdevelopmentfund.org.uk](http://www.swaleyouthdevelopmentfund.org.uk)



## AGE UK FAVERSHAM & SITTINGBOURNE

### Love later life

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

Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne have joined forces; you can still access all of the same great services at the same centres but together we will be able to develop new and exciting services and offer you more support.

- Friendship and fun
- Information, advice & advocacy
- Freshly cooked lunches delivered to you
- Day care (including transport)
- Specialist dementia support
- Personal care in your home
- Outreach Support
- Bathing
- Chiropody and foot care

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

#### What our clients say about us:

*"They were really there when we needed them"*

*"They give the upmost respect and dignity"*

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

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

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

#### Faversham

Tel: 01795 532766

#### Sittingbourne

Tel: 01795 477520

Charity number: 1152234

#### Teynham

Tel: 01795 521052

**abilityplus**

**Stairlifts**  
Glide upstairs  
with ease...

**FREE**  
SURVEY  
& QUOTE  
Tel: 01795  
228 386

Stairlift  
servicing  
available

everything for more ability in life



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

Digital hearing  
technology on  
your door step



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

Why settle for anything less?



Call: **01795 511654**  
for a no obligation appointment.

www.**21stcenturyhearing**.com

## Appeal launched for new museum



The landmark Milton Regis Court Hall, one of only two buildings of its type in Kent, has taken a step closer to re-opening as a museum next year with the launch of a fundraising appeal.

The Friends of Milton Regis Court Hall have taken over the running over the 15th century former civic centre from Swale Borough Council after agreeing the terms of a long term lease.

The Friends, now a registered charity, have launched a £20,000 appeal, to prepare the building for its transformation into a tourist attraction expected to bring many visitors to Swale.

Cllr Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Localism, said: *"I am sure the generous people of Swale will continue to donate to this very worthy cause."*

*"My personal congratulations go to the team from The Friends for actually making this all happen."*

To find out more about the project visit:  
[www.friendsofmiltonregiscourthall.co.uk](http://www.friendsofmiltonregiscourthall.co.uk)

The Friends of Milton Regis Court Hall was formed in 2011 by a group of people with a common appreciation of preserving a building that has stood at the heart of its community for some 560 years.



## SECONDARY TRANSFER 2015

We look forward to welcoming you

*High expectations.*

*Outstanding facilities.*

*Transforming education and the community that we serve.*



**East Campus:**  
Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea,  
ME12 3JQ

**West Campus:**  
Marine Parade, Sheerness,  
ME12 2BE

[www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org](http://www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org)

## OPEN EVENINGS

Wednesday 24th September 2014  
(East)

Wednesday 8th October 2014  
(West)

**5pm—8pm**

Principal's Presentations:  
5.10pm and 6.15pm



## OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 2nd October 2014  
(East)

Thursday 16th October 2014  
(West)

**08:45—10:00am**

Phone 01795 873591 to book a tour

## Pop-up your shop

Ever dreamt of opening a shop, perhaps selling your own line of vintage designs or ingenious, must-have products?

“The project is an opportunity for budding entrepreneurs and new businesses to test their ideas.”

A new pop-up shop project led by Swale Borough Council will give entrepreneurs and independent traders the chance to trade for a

limited time and assess their true high street potential.

Businesses will be allocated between one and three weeks to test their business ideas.

The Council hopes success will give firms using the space the confidence to set up shop permanently in Swale.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet member for Regeneration, said: *“The project is an opportunity for budding entrepreneurs and new businesses to test their ideas.*

*“It is perfect for those who have a business idea and will allow them to test the market and receive direct feedback from customers.*

*“We hope that the project will encourage them to set up shop permanently in one of Swale’s high streets.”*



To register your interest in the Pop-Up Shop email: [jillread@swale.gov.uk](mailto:jillread@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417 592.

## TIGER! TIGER! burning bright...in Swale

Ten Swale firms to date have successfully applied for a **TIGER** business loan, securing a total £4.8million to help grow their business and boost the local economy.

**TIGER** – Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise – is a regional growth fund offering low-cost loans, supporting businesses seeking to invest in new products and services – and to create jobs.

The scheme launched in April 2013 with £20 million of interest-free loans available to businesses in or interest in locating to Swale, Medway, Dartford and Gravesham in Kent, plus Thurrock in Essex.

**TIGER** is set to close to new applications by the end of 2014. To find out more about applying for a loan and advice on whether your project meets the criteria, visit: [www.tiger20million.co.uk](http://www.tiger20million.co.uk)



**Entity Group**, a specialist data management business based in Sittingbourne counts banks, financial services institutions, car manufacturers and local authorities among its customers.

Thanks to the **TIGER** loan scheme it has been able to grow significantly over the past year, and hopes to have retained or created over 80 jobs by 2020, with the majority based at its offices on Kent Science Park.

Since August 2013 Entity has successfully applied for two separate **TIGER** loans of £250,000, and are awaiting news on a further £700,000 investment..

Marketing manager, Sam Thomsett, said: *“With continued funding from organisations such as the **TIGER** fund to help enable job creation, Entity will be in a prime position to continue on its path to success.”*



**LMR Gear-Tech** is a manufacturer of specialist gear cutting. It principally serves the UK but has recently successfully expanded into North America and Europe.

If you've ever used the London Underground then you might not know that the gears which drive the ticket barriers are made here in Swale, at Stadium Way, Sittingbourne.

A £145,000 **TIGER** loan allowed the business to buy a neighbouring factory, providing an extra 3,000 sq feet of space to allow it to increase its range of products and take on eight more staff.

The company is also taking on one full time apprentice for each of the next seven years, with an ambition to double in size between now and 2019.

## Give young people chance to shine



Swale Borough Council is showing the way when it comes to giving young people their first steps into work.

Around 30 young people have been taken on by the local authority as apprentices over the past three years.

Could you help give the next generation a chance too by offering an apprenticeship?

For more on apprenticeships in Swale, including grant and recruitment support, visit: [www.apprentices.org.uk](http://www.apprentices.org.uk) or call **01795 417 194**.



**Kent College**  
Canterbury

An outstanding school for boys and girls aged 3 - 18

RATED ★★★★★  
SCHOOL GUIDE

We can help with the whole journey  
from 3 to 18

Senior School Open Morning  
October 4th 9:00am until 12:30pm

Senior School - 01227 763231

[www.kentcollege.com](http://www.kentcollege.com)

Junior School - 01227 762436

# Stay safe this Halloween



Concerned about people coming to your door trick or treating over Halloween?

If anyone calls and their behaviour worries you, let a neighbour know or use one of the numbers below:

- In an emergency – dial **999**
- Kent Police non-emergency – **101**
- Swale Borough Council – **01795 417 850**
- Neighbourhood Watch – **01634 792 131**
- Kent Crimestoppers – **0800 555 111**

For further information on crime reduction initiatives across Swale visit [www.swalecsp.co.uk](http://www.swalecsp.co.uk)  
email [csu@swale.gov.uk](mailto:csu@swale.gov.uk) or call **01795 417 193**.

# Keep to the firework code

Swale Borough Council wants everyone to enjoy Bonfire Night in safety.

The best advice is to go along to an organised display but, if you're hosting a private event in your garden, please follow the firework code:

- Light sparklers one at a time wearing gloves
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Buy fireworks marked BS 7114
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light them at arm's length, using a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks
- Keep pets indoors

**Don't forget you can't buy fireworks if you're under 18.**

It is against the law for anyone to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on Bonfire Night, when the cut off time is midnight.

Fireworks (including sparklers) can only be bought from registered sellers for private use from 15 October to 10 November, 26 to 31 December, for three days before Diwali and Chinese New Year. At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops.

You can be given an on-the-spot fine of £80 for illegally using fireworks.

Are you hosting an organised public fireworks display?

Send details to [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk) and we'll post details in the events section of [www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk)

## Who ya gonna call...



Meet Maxine and Keith two of Swale's graffiti busters helping to keep your Borough clean.

Swale Borough Council's Environment Wardens use a high powered water jet to clear unsightly scrawls and tags when reported by residents or spotted by the team while out on patrol.

Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment, said: *"We work closely with Kent Police to tackle graffiti, which can so negatively affect the appearance of our streets and parks."*



*"The graffiti buster machine helps the Council to remove graffiti as quickly as possible, but we would rather it didn't happen in the first place. Those who carry out this vandalism should be in no doubt they risk being prosecuted if caught."*

Spotted graffiti? Report it to us by completing the form at:

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

## Make your dog everyone's friend

If you are a dog owner there are a few things you can do to remain your neighbourhood's best friend.

### **Control your dog in public**

A dog cannot be considered totally under control unless it is on a lead held by someone able to control it.

Letting your pet off the lead is fine, unless otherwise indicated, in parks and open space, but owners are still responsible for their pet's actions.

In other areas such as public roads, town centres and where livestock are present, owners should keep them on the lead.

There are also rules, known as dog control orders, in place for areas such as play areas, beaches and cemeteries where pets must be kept on a lead at certain or all times.

Ignoring these controls could result, ultimately, in being taken to court.

### **Pick up after your pet**

Failing to pick up after your pet when it goes to the loo could land you with a £80 on the spot fine. Bag it and bin it.

### **Get your pet microchipped**

It will soon be a legal requirement to get your dog micro-chipped. It helps to identify your pet and reunite animals with their owners quickly should they ever be lost.

To report dog fouling, noisy, dangerous or stray dogs visit:

[www.swale.gov.uk/animals-pests](http://www.swale.gov.uk/animals-pests)



## Green Doctor house calls on Sheppey

Green Doctors are giving Sheppey residents a clean bill of environmental health.

Residents on the Isle of Sheppey can save up to £240 a year on average on their household energy bills after a visit from a 'Green Doctor'.

As part of the Big Lottery funded Sustainable Sheppey project, the Green Doctors are offering FREE visits to every home on the Island to provide energy and money saving gadgets, including:

- water-saving flush bags, saving a litre of water per flush for handle-flush toilets;
- reflective panels to increase the heat from radiators; and
- LED lightbulbs which save more money and energy than the popular 'energy saving' lightbulbs.

These small changes alone will save each home more than £40 a year on gas, electricity and water bills combined.

The Green Doctors, from the environmental charity Groundwork, can also provide advice on government grants that are available to some homes, and assist in making referrals for home improvements where possible.

The visit only takes an hour and can be arranged in advance at a time to suit you. If you're interested in a visit from a Green Doctor please:

Email: [jo.ursell@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:jo.ursell@groundwork.org.uk)  
or call **01795 434 222**



### Save on your energy bills

EDF Energy and Swale Borough Council have teamed up to make residents aware

of the energy efficiency improvements they could be eligible for under the government's ECO (Energy Company Obligation) scheme.

This is designed to help people reduce energy loss in their homes and lower heating costs.

People who live in government-selected postcodes and/or qualify for specific benefits could be eligible for free loft insulation, cavity wall insulation and replacement gas boilers.

Keep an eye out for a leaflet from EDF in the post. To find out more visit:

<http://www.edfenergy.com>

www.northstarcleaning.co.uk

Your valuable flooring and upholstery is safe in our hands

**01795 511945**

Residential & Commercial Cleaning Services

**NORTH STAR**

24 hr emergency 07976 015531

NCCA Checkatrade.com Where reputation matters

f t

The advertisement features a white dog lying on a light-colored floor. A vacuum cleaner is partially visible in the foreground. The text is arranged in a clear, professional layout with a red header and footer.

## Energy saving tips to save you cash



Save on your energy bills by following these low cost tips this autumn.

### Turn it off

Switch off unnecessary lights and unplug electrical appliances, rather than leaving them on standby, and save £45 to £80 a year.

### Kitchen etiquette

Save over £43 a year by following this advice:

- set washing machine to wash at 30°C;
- use a bowl to wash up rather than leave the hot tap running; and
- fill the kettle by cups of tea required, not to the top every time.

### Shower savings

If you have a shower that takes hot water straight from your boiler you may be able to

have a water efficient shower head fitted, potentially saving a family of four around £65 a year on gas for water heating and £95 on your water bills if they have a water meter.

### Draught excluders

Unless your home is very new, you're likely to be losing some heat through draughts around doors and windows, gaps around the floor, maybe up a chimney or two, and a whole host of other little holes around the house.

DIY draught proofing of windows and doors, plus blocking cracks in floors and skirting boards could cost up to £200 but could save between £20 to £30 a year.

For more tips and advice on reducing energy costs visit:

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

## Bidding for new homes gets easier

Swale Borough Council and AmicusHorizon Housing Association have successfully piloted a new housing bidding system that gives customers better access to homes.

Previously, any vacant social housing in Swale was advertised on a fortnightly basis using the Kent Homechoice system.

Properties are now added whenever they become available on a daily basis. Over 100 homes have now been let to local people using this method.

Customers are still given at least five days to bid, with help available for those who need assistance.

To find out more visit:

[www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/swale](http://www.kenthomechoice.org.uk/swale)  
or email [housingoptions@swale.gov.uk](mailto:housingoptions@swale.gov.uk)

**THE CLEANING SERVICE**  
**BELLE CASA**  
Beautiful Homes

We know how hard it can be to find a dependable and honest cleaner, which is where we can help.

We can offer you professional cleaning and ironing for a fully inclusive rate of only **£10.25 per hour** (minimum of 2 hours per week).

All of our cleaners are specially selected, and insured, and you will receive the same cleaner each week.

So, if you'd like to take the pressure off keeping up with your household chores, then call us today on:

**01795 570212**  
(01795 533642 outside office hours)

or visit our website:  
**[www.bellecasa.co.uk](http://www.bellecasa.co.uk)**



Medway **NHS**  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Hospital invests in new Pre-Operative Care Unit



A new Pre-Operative Care Unit (POCU) has opened at Medway Maritime to improve the experience of patients coming to hospital for pre-booked surgery.

The Unit provides 16 discreet and comfortable cabins where patients can be assessed and changed before waiting to be taken to the operating theatre for their procedure. The new £800k unit not only provides better facilities and a more relaxed and private environment, it is located even closer to theatres and allows for more patients to be seen.

The Unit is part of a series of improvements to patient care and experience.

## Ten years of osteoporosis unit

The nurse-led Osteoporosis Unit at Medway Maritime, which sees around 100 patients each week, has celebrated its 10th anniversary with a new scanner that will help to further improve the service.

Colette Anderson, Clinical Nurse Specialist for Osteoporosis, said: "The Unit provides care and support for those patients referred by GPs as well as inpatients on our wards who have been admitted with fractures."



“it’s great to see how the Unit has developed over time and the great patient feedback we receive is testament to the work of our fantastic team of nurses.”

The new £96,000 bone density scanner allows patients to lay flat, making the experience a lot more comfortable than previously.

Osteoporosis is a fairly common condition that affects around three million people in the UK.

More than 300,000 people receive hospital treatment as a result of osteoporosis.

Wrist fractures, hip fractures and fractures of the vertebrae are the most common type of breaks that affect people with osteoporosis. They can also occur in other bones, such as in the arm, ribs, or pelvis.

During childhood, bones grow and repair very quickly, but this process slows as you get older.

There are usually no warnings you’ve developed osteoporosis and it’s often only diagnosed when a bone is fractured.

## Do you have a few hours to spare?

The voluntary services department is looking for volunteers to support ward staff. Are you able to spare a few hours to help make teas and coffees, transport notes and talk to patients?

The Trust is also looking for volunteer floorwalkers (guides that walk the floors to assist people that are lost throughout the hospital).

If you think you would be able to spare a minimum of four hours per week, please contact voluntary services manager, Zoe Goodman on **01634 825 246** or email: [zgoodman@nhs.net](mailto:zgoodman@nhs.net) to find out how you can get involved.

Our volunteers do a marvellous job enhancing the quality of life for patients and visitors whilst supporting our staff and we would love to welcome you to the team.

## Stay in touch with your hospital

Did you know that Medway Maritime Hospital is part of a foundation trust? Foundation trust status allows you to become a member and stay more closely in touch with your hospital.

Membership is free and means you will be invited to a range of events or sent relevant, hospital-related information – you can of course choose to be involved as much or as little as you like.

To sign up visit: [www.medway.nhs.uk](http://www.medway.nhs.uk), email: [members@medway.nhs.uk](mailto:members@medway.nhs.uk) or call **01634 825 292**

# Your Councillors

 Conservative  Independent Group

 Labour  Ungrouped Member

## Abbey



### **Bryan Mulhern**

01795 538 498  
bryanmulhern@btinternet.com



### **Anita Walker**

01795 531 192  
anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk

## Borden



### **Nicholas Hampshire**

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

## Boughton & Courtenay



### **George Bobbin**

01227 751 388  
george.bobbin@btinternet.com



### **Andrew Bowles**

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

## Chalkwell



### **Roger Truelove**

01795 425 445  
rtruelove12@gmail.com



### **Ghlin Whelan**

01795 475 629  
ghlinwhelan@blueyonder.co.uk

## Davington Priory



### **Mike Henderson**

01795 534 368 or 07900 265 337  
mr.michaelhenderson@virgin.net

## East Downs



### **Colin Prescott**

01795 590 054  
colinprescott@swale.gov.uk

## Grove



### **Duncan Dewar-Whalley**

07889 808 871  
duncandewar-whalley@swale.gov.uk



### **Gareth Randall**

01795 474 802  
garethrandall@swale.gov.uk

## Hartlip, Newington & Upchurch



### **Gerry Lewin**

01634 366 113  
cllrlewin@swale.gov.uk



### **John Wright**

01795 842 852  
johnwright@swale.gov.uk

## Iwade & Lower Halstow



### **Ben Stokes**

01795 476 979  
benstokes@swale.gov.uk

## Kemsley



### **Sue Gent**

01795 430 768  
suegent@swale.gov.uk



### **Mike Whiting**

01795 842 631  
mikewhiting@swale.gov.uk

## Leysdown & Warden



### **Patricia Sandle**

01795 510 400  
patriciasandle@swale.gov.uk

## Milton Regis



### **Adam Tolhurst**

01795 475 888  
adamtolhurst@swale.gov.uk



### **Tony Winckless**

01795 425 987  
tonywinckless@swale.gov.uk

## Minster Cliffs



### **Andy Booth**

07912 464 213  
andybooth@swale.gov.uk



### **Adrian Crowther**

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



### **Kenneth Pugh**

01795 871 388  
kenpugh@uwclub.net

## Murston



### **Ed Gent**

07955 111 981  
e.gent@sky.com

## Murston cont.



**Nick Williams**

01795 479 835  
nick\_p\_williams@yahoo.co.uk

## Queenborough & Halfway



**Jackie Constable**

01795 665 238  
jackieconstable57@gmail.com



**Mick Constable**

01795 665 238



**Peter Marchington**

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

## Roman



**Mike Haywood**

07960 173 264  
labourleader@swale.gov.uk



**Martin McCusker**

07403 006 997  
martinmccusker@swale.gov.uk

## Sheerness East



**Mark Ellen**

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



**David Sargent**

01795 664 914  
david.sargent@14cavour.freereserve.co.uk

## Sheerness West



**Angela Harrison**

01795 665 029  
angelaharrison@swale.gov.uk



**Steven Worrall**

01795 665 589

## Sheppey Central



**Lesley Ingham**

01795 881 123 or 07714 445 871  
lesleyingham@swale.gov.uk



**June Garrad**

01795 227 592  
jvgarrad@aol.com

## St Ann's



**Mike Cosgrove**

01795 591 790  
cllrcosgrove@swale.gov.uk



**John Coulter**

01795 539 046  
johncoulter@swale.gov.uk

## St Michael's



**Derek Conway**

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



**Sylvia Bennett**

01795 476 979  
sylviabennett@swale.gov.uk

## Teynham & Lynsted



**Richard Barnicott**

01795 536 177  
rickbarnicott@swale.gov.uk



**Lloyd Bowen**

01795 522 357  
lloydbowen@swale.gov.uk

## Watling



**David Simmons**

01795 532 100  
davidsimmons@swale.gov.uk



**Ted Wilcox**

01795 533 004  
tedwilcox@swale.gov.uk

## West Downs



**Monique Bonney**

07973 443 527  
montybon1@aol.com

## Woodstock



**Alan Willicombe**

07892 697 712  
alanwillicombe@swale.gov.uk



**Jean Willicombe**

07892 697 759  
jeanwillicombe@swale.gov.uk

# Want to learn how to grow a business?

Then find out more about our  
completely **FREE** support  
programme

**Tel: 01795 417194 or visit**  
**[www.swale.gov.uk/support-for-business](http://www.swale.gov.uk/support-for-business)**

