

# Inside Swale magazine

Summer 2013

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue

**RNLI rule Sheppey's waves**

**AND its beaches**

**Leysdown Rose-tinted**

**Summer is finally here!**

**Noise Action Week**



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\*Price relates to off-peak gym membership at Swallows leisure centre. Membership from £14.95 at Sheppey Leisure Complex.



Cllr Andrew Bowles  
Leader

# Welcome to the summer edition of Inside Swale

The elections are over for 2013 but I am sure it won't be long before we all start talking about the elections for 2014. In the meantime I am delighted to welcome the newly elected Mayor of Swale for 2013/14, Councillor Sue Gent. Sue takes over the baton from Councillor Pat Sandle, who will continue to remain an important presence as the local councillor in Leysdown and Warden.

Another Swale Borough Council department has been shortlisted

for an award. The Environment Response Team has reached the finals of the MJ Local Government Achievement Awards. Another award nominated team achieving outstanding results.

The sun is shining and the hard work continues, as we strive to keep our community areas clean and safe for everyone to enjoy throughout the summer.

We have so much to enjoy right on our doorstep – see pages 14 and 15 for ideas. Get out and explore!



Leysdown Rose Tinted



Visit Swale



Noise Action Week

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# North Sheppey Coastal Erosion Exhibition



*Cliff erosion near Minster, Isle of Sheppey*

Isle of Sheppey residents were recently invited to an exhibition at Eastchurch Village Hall, showing coastal erosion on the north Sheppey coast

A study, funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), was undertaken to assess cliff erosion between Minster and Leysdown. The study focused on the undefended frontage to provide up to date information on future predicted erosion rates.

The rate of cliff erosion is predicted to increase over the next 100 years, and the study provides information to enable residents and businesses to plan ahead and reduce the effects of accelerated climate change and coastal erosion.

The maps and information made available at the exhibition can be found at:

[www.swale.gov.uk/coastal-erosion](http://www.swale.gov.uk/coastal-erosion)

## The results are in!

The Kent County Council 2013 election results were declared on Friday 3 May. Every four years there is an election for all 84 County Councillors, who represent their communities in Kent County Council's area (this excludes Medway).

Your County Councillors use local knowledge to help the council make decisions on the essential services provided, including education, roads, social care, youth services and libraries.

Visit [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) for all the election results.



# Grrrrreat opportunity for Swale

New jobs and new investment will bring about roaring success when new funding starts reaching businesses across Swale. That was the message from the launch of the TIGER – Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise – scheme in Swale on 26 March.

Swale’s Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr. Mike Cosgrove emphasised the need to get good quality applications coming forward from Swale businesses. “This really is an opportunity for the right projects to access between 50% and 75% of the funding required on an interest-free basis. We want to make sure that Swale businesses get at least their fair-share from this pot, to help make Swale a better place.”



James Speck, Site Director for Kent Science Park, representing the Swale Economy and Regeneration Partnership, spoke supporting the bid, “Securing this funding for the area is a good example of what can be achieved when business and the public sector work together. The award of this money is a recognition that Kent as a whole has the potential to be a major contributor to the UK economy.”

*Site Director for Kent Science Park, James Speck talking at the launch*

**TIGER** is open to applications, and will offer 0% interest loans to businesses investing in new products and services - creating long-term job opportunities. Initially the TIGER fund will be aimed at media, ICT, manufacturing, technological development, environmental and low carbon businesses.

**Contact:**

[www.kent.gov.uk/business/growing\\_your\\_business/grants\\_and\\_funding/tiger.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/business/growing_your_business/grants_and_funding/tiger.aspx) or visit [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) and search for **TIGER**.

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**Access between 50% & 70% funding on an interest free basis**

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## Hall for hire

### Teynham Community Hall is available for hire

The Teynham Parish Council run community facility, has been upgraded to its current day standards with financial assistance from local grants, and generous time from parishioners.

The hall is regularly hired by local groups including the Women's Institute, SureStart, Shake-That dance group and art classes.

For full details and hire availability contact the Parish Clerk on:

[parishclerk@teynham.org](mailto:parishclerk@teynham.org) or visit the website [www.teynham.org](http://www.teynham.org).



*Teynham Community Hall*

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## Faversham car and bike show

**Come to the 5th Annual Faversham Charity Car & Bike Show at the Farming World Show Ground. Now held over two days - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 August 2013**

2013 is going to be bigger and better, with a variety of music entertainment and fun things for all the family to do and enjoy. This fantastic charity event attracts a wide mix of future classics, vintage, bikes, and military vehicles.

This year welcomes two new additions to the show, with circus acts and an entertainment stage. Music performances including Abba Queens, and Jackson 5 tribute shows.

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



# RNLI rule Sheppey's waves AND its beaches!

Residents and visitors to Sheppey's beaches now benefit from a RNLI lifeguard service



Mayor Sue Gent and Councillor David Simmons, with RNLI Lifeguard Manager Rory Smith and his team

Swale Borough Council has worked closely with the RNLI to provide a part time cover service from 4 May, with full time cover in place from 13 July to 8 September 2013. The service covers Sheerness, Minster and Leysdown beaches.

As RNLI lifeguards work closely alongside the charity's volunteer lifeboat crews, it means beach-goers and water-users will have a seamless rescue service from beach to open sea.

**The RNLI encourages anyone planning a trip to the beach to follow these top tips, to keep safe.**

- 1 Swim at a lifeguarded beach.**
- 2 Never use inflatables in strong winds or rough seas.**
- 3 Check tide times before you go.**
- 4 If you get into trouble, stick your hand in the air and shout for help.**
- 5 If you see someone else in trouble, tell a lifeguard. If you can't see a lifeguard, call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coastguard.**

**For more information visit [www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety](http://www.rnli.org.uk/beachsafety)**

The Mayor of Swale, Cllr. Sue Gent, Deputy Leader, Cllr. Gerry Lewin, and Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs, Cllr. David Simmons, joined RNLI Lifeguard Manager Rory Smith and his team at its launch near the Sheerness lifeguard hut (see photo).

The RNLI provides lifeguards on over 180 of the UK's busiest beaches. Last year, the charity's lifeguards saved the lives of 84 people, rescuing a further 3,566 people, treating 862 major first aid casualties, and reuniting 1,240 families and friends with those 'missing' or 'lost'.

**RNLI lifeguards helped 17,671 people last year**

# World War I Centenary (2014-2018)

2014 will mark 100 years since the outbreak of the First World War. National plans for commemorating the centenary are fast progressing and so far include state occasions, new exhibitions, cultural activities, as well as academic debates.

Councillors and officers of the council are keen to ensure all members of its community, and visitors to the area, can access details of events being held across the Borough, and so have developed an events listing on the council website. Anyone considering plans for a commemorative activity or event can send the details to [tourism@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@swale.gov.uk) or call **01795 417 399** to have their details added.

Keep in contact with events and updates on how the council will get involved by visiting [www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1](http://www.swale.gov.uk/centenary-ww1). For national events, visit [www.1914.org](http://www.1914.org)



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## 100 years since the start of the Great War

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# We want to hear from you!

## Local Area Perception Survey

During July and August the council will be conducting its annual postal survey of 2,500 randomly selected households in the Borough. The purpose of the survey, is to ensure that we are responsive to residents' concerns and take decisions that reflect your views on a number of important issues. If you do receive the survey, please complete it and return it before the deadline, to ensure that your concerns and views are counted.

## Overview and scrutiny

The council's Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committees are made up of non-Executive Councillors who hold the Cabinet to account. They have recently reviewed topics such as Sittingbourne Town Centre regeneration, parking enforcement and empty homes. The Committees are currently looking at work programmes for the coming year, and would welcome your suggestions for reviews. If you have suggestions for areas which you think would benefit from scrutiny, contact us.

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Contact the Policy Department on [policy@swale.gov.uk](mailto:policy@swale.gov.uk)  
or call **01795 417 187**

# A big thank you to former Mayor

The Mayor Making Ceremony has taken place for the Mayor for 2013/14. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Pat Sandle for her dedication and hard work during her term in office.



*Outgoing Mayor, Cllr. Pat Sandle plants an oak tree at Kemsley with local school children*

Councillor Pat Sandle stood for her local Parish Council in 1997, was elected as a Member of Swale Borough Council in 2007, and then re-elected in 2011. Elected as Mayor of Swale in 2012, Pat chose 'Help For Heroes' as her Mayoral Charity.

One of Pat's highlights during her Mayoral year, was a visit from the Olympic Russian Equestrian Eventing team in July 2012 before they went on to compete in the 2012 Games.

More recently Pat has helped to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee with the planting of oak trees across the Borough. The Mayor has entertained a number of guests over the year, from local school children to local celebrities, such as charity fundraiser and 'whistling postman' - Dale Howting. He presented

the Mayor with a cheque for her charity whilst also handing over his British Empire Medal and Olympic Torch. Dale has requested the council display them for future generations of Swale to enjoy.

## Welcome

As we say a fond farewell to Mayor Pat Sandle, we warmly welcome the Mayor for 2013/14 – Councillor Sue Gent.

Originally from Essex, Councillor Gent made Swale her home 39 years ago and hasn't looked back. Elected as councillor for Kemsley ward in 2002, Sue has served Swale as Deputy Mayor for the past year. During the forthcoming year as Mayor, she is keen to visit as many local businesses, partner organisations and local schools as possible.

Sue enjoys family life with her six children, and has welcomed becoming a grandmother and great grandmother!



*Outgoing Mayor Pat Sandle (left) with newly installed Mayor Sue Gent*

## Mayoress of Swale (1981-82), Peggy Holden

As the Council went through the Mayor Making Ceremony to welcome new Mayor Sue Gent, a thought was spared for the family and friends of Peggy Holden, former Mayoress of Swale. Mrs Holden sadly passed away in April, aged 91. Together with Major Terry Holden they served together as Mayor and Mayoress of the Borough during 1981-1982.

# Leysdown Rose-tinted project leaves seaside town glowing



Children working on the Cultural Baton

The Leysdown Rose-tinted project is coming to an end after three years of residents, businesses, and local artists coming together. Using arts as the driving force, everyone involved has helped revitalise the community spirit running through Leysdown.

Laura and Louise, from FrancisKnight, were appointed in 2009 to take the project forward and have taken Leysdown by storm as they injected arts into the community through a variety of projects.

## 2010

Artist Cathy Bird kick started events with a series of watercolour workshops for residents and visitors to the seafront. The year continued with a visit from the Tate Movie Truck as part of a national tour carried out by the Tate and Aardman animation.

As part of the Leysdown carnival, artist Nicole Mollett brought the Kent Cultural Baton to Leysdown. The Kent Cultural Baton is a unique, original artwork designed by artist Nicole Mollett that toured Kent in the period leading up to the London 2012 Games.

The Baton's journey around Kent culminated in a body of material of the different places, textures and narratives that comprise Kent. The most innovative and exciting discoveries contributed to an alternative 'Map of Kent'.

## 2011

The website [www.voicesofleysdown.co.uk](http://www.voicesofleysdown.co.uk) – an online village archive of stories by and about people who live and work in Leysdown, was created. Later that year, the Spinney Rose Garden commission worked with the local community to create a garden of colour for the community to enjoy. Artist Alun Heslop also produced sculptural forms inspired by the shapes of the many razorfish shells found on the beaches in Leysdown.



Water colour workshop

**Leysdown  
Rose-tinted  
have left the  
community  
a lasting  
legacy that  
visitors,  
residents  
and future  
generations  
will be able  
to embrace**

**2012** Alun Heslop was joined by fellow artists Laura Boswell and Mark Hewitt to create replacement signage for the area. Mark spent time in and around the village and through his conversations, travels and investigations produced the wording for the signage. Two 'resting points' were installed for 'The Harty Trail' route, linking Leysdown with the Isle of Harty.



*Resting Point on the Harty Trail*

**2013** has seen one of the final celebrations of art for the project with the switch on of the new lighting scheme installed at the Promenade. Rob Olins was the lead artist who worked with the local community on the concept and design process. He created the innovative scheme which was celebrated early this year as local school children paraded to the seafront with lit lanterns, and local group Big Fish performed sea shanties for the crowd.



*Making Lanterns*

See more [www.voicesofleysdown.co.uk](http://www.voicesofleysdown.co.uk), [www.kentculturalbaton.com](http://www.kentculturalbaton.com)

Thanks go to all those who have been involved in the project.

Funding for the project came from Arts Council England, Kent County Council Arts Development Unit, Kent County Council Regeneration and Economy, Leader Marshes and Swale rural funding, Leysdown Parish Council, Queenborough Fisheries Trust and Swale Borough Council.

# Sunday July 7th

Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works & SAF  
invite you to

# ARTISTS IN THE WOODS Green Festival

Oare Gunpowder Works <sup>at</sup>  
Bysing Wood Road, Oare  
Fun for all the family  
10am -4pm

Artists working, carving & drawing,  
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£1 programme. Good food & refreshments

local arts and crafts  
for sale

Free entrance

Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works



SWALE ARTS  
FORUM

# Funding for High Street innovation

## Sittingbourne

Funding to improve the High Street has been awarded to two teams who submitted a joint bid to make the town centre more vibrant and improve the local economy. Environmental art charity Litter Angels and Sittingbourne Retail Association have already started work on their project.



*Cllr. John Wright with Sioux Peto and Nick Smith by the Bargeman in Sittingbourne High Street*

Litter Angels will take over an empty High Street shop, transforming it into a hive of activity with interactive events and workshops covering photography, film, drawing and music. The “pART” project will run from June to December, and the shop will also be used as a place to promote upcoming events.

The full 12-18 month project will see a variety of events. Local voluntary and community groups are encouraged to get involved.

Visit [www.swaleartsforum.org](http://www.swaleartsforum.org) or [www.litterangels.org](http://www.litterangels.org). Or contact **Sioux Peto** on **01795 522 566** or **Nick Smith** on **07773 277 351**.

## The Faversham

### Enterprise Partnership

has already used some of their funding to support town centre initiatives, including the promotion of successful traditional Christmas markets, which will be held again this year.

Social media has gripped Faversham traders, and funding is going to be used to provide workshops on how they can improve their use of social media to help their businesses.

Coming soon! A new print and online services directory will highlight the quality of shopping and services in Faversham. Call **01795 539 339**.

### Sheerness Town Team

has used some of their funding to transform the Town, including putting the finishing touches to the Sheerness War Memorial Garden.

They also helped support Christmas festivities in the Town. Future projects include traditional market barrows at the clock tower and supporting Restoration Youth with their youth enterprise hub in Trinity Road.

Coming soon! Pedestrian only access, “painting the town” and much more!

For more information or for volunteering opportunities contact Heather on **07882 918 234**.

# Summer is finally here!

We are celebrating by bringing you just some of the highlights the Borough has to offer. Visit attractions on your doorstep....



*Perry Wood*

Perry Wood is located in the Kent Downs area of outstanding natural beauty. Its position on the landscape, with fantastic views to the coast and countryside means that it has a rich history. The view point called The Mount was used as part of a semaphore chain, sending messages from London to the Kent ports.

Recently, the Council signed a five year contract with Weald Woodscapes Ltd to undertake arboriculture works in Perry Wood. Weald Woodscapes will use their extensive experience and strong ecological interest, using horses to extract timber from the woodland whenever they can.

Weald Woodscapes will work alongside the existing Perry Wood Friends Group and the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, to offer residents and visitors to the Borough a fantastic woodland park to enjoy.

[www.perrywood.org.uk](http://www.perrywood.org.uk) or [www.midkentdowns.org.uk](http://www.midkentdowns.org.uk)

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# Milton Creek Country Park - Sittingbourne



*Milton Creek Country Park* play area, as well as an extensive network of paths with significant wildlife habitats.

Set in 128 acres, Milton Creek Country Park stretches from the shores of Milton Creek, to the fishing lake at Kemsley and on through to one of the oldest churches in Kent. There is a natural

There is a fishing lake and the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway runs through the Park.

The Country Park's calendar is fast becoming full with events for all the family. Events include group bike rides, Art In The Park and a council-led scheme - providing play opportunities for local children. Enjoy and learn about the increasing wildlife at the Park with a guided walk with a Kent Bat Group expert in August - limited spaces are available.

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

The park is supported by the Milton Creek Trust and Friends of Milton Creek. To find the next volunteer event, visit the website or contact the **Milton Creek Ranger on 07785 458 702.**

# Perry Wood - Faversham



*Barton's Point Coastal Park, photo courtesy of Ray Eden*

## Barton's Point Coastal Park - Isle of Sheppey

Bartons Point Coastal Park is an attractive outdoors activity centre all the family can enjoy. Based on the Isle of Sheppey, the Park features a Boat House Café, camping facilities, and a pirate-themed children's play area. The park caters for boating, canoeing, kayaking and kiting. It is also home to the Sheppey Model Engineering Society offering miniature steam train rides and Barton's Point Model Flying Club.

[www.bartonspointcoastalpark.co.uk](http://www.bartonspointcoastalpark.co.uk)  
or find them on **Facebook**

## Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park - Faversham

Gunpowder was manufactured at Oare for several centuries on a site that has become valuable for wildlife. In 2003 Heritage Lottery Fund awarded a significant sum to develop the area as a site for the public to experience the unique blend of history and wildlife.



*Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park*

The park is open daily and the visitor centre is open to the public on weekends and public holidays from April until November. There are displays explaining how gunpowder was made at Oare and reflecting on the part the Works played in the development of Faversham.

Swale Borough Council recently appointed Kent Countryside Management Partnerships (KCMPs) for the delivery of a community engagement programme at the Country Park.

Working alongside the existing Friends Group, who provide valuable support, KCMPs will bring together a collective of organisations to help manage the visitor centre and education programme and link communities to the Gunpowder Works.

Visit [www.gunpowderworks.co.uk](http://www.gunpowderworks.co.uk) for more information.

# Sittingbourne regeneration remains on course

Even though Tesco will not be continuing with their plans for development in Sittingbourne – regeneration plans are still on course. Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Cllr Mike Cosgrove said: “As the economy picks up, Swale is helping to create more jobs for Sittingbourne, with a further 350 as Morrisons store is open for business. More is planned for Sittingbourne High Street as it benefits from £35,000 from the High Street Innovation Fund to help invigorate the High Street, ahead of The Spirit of Sittingbourne plans that are progressing well.”



Spirit of Sittingbourne continues to work on the preparation for the regeneration of Sittingbourne town centre. All those involved in the

developments remain confident that the project will give Sittingbourne an injection of much needed improvement, including a new station square, a new cultural quarter, a new library and brand new public realm as well as new homes.



## Cashless parking coming to Swale

Cashless parking will soon be introduced throughout Swale. Options for cashless parking have been explored, including paying for car parking tickets via a smart phone app. Work is still underway to finalise the details - we will bring you an update as soon as we can on [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk).

## Are you worried about paying your Council Tax?

If you are worried about paying your Council Tax or have got into arrears - contact the Council Tax team on **01795 417 272**. We can help you come to an arrangement to pay your current bill and any arrears. Contact the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) in Sittingbourne and Sheppey **0844 499 4124** or Faversham **0844 499 4125** for **free, independent advice**.





# Victoria Working Men's Club transformation

Victoria Working Men's Club has been transformed into much needed new homes thanks to the No Use Empty (NUE) scheme and the hard work of Kent-based business Grigg & Crouch.

Work started on the site at the former club in Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey in November 2012. The building has now been transformed from the dereliction it suffered after the club relocated to new premises in 2000. The interior of the building now houses flats with fantastic high ceilings from the original building. The majestic windows keep the original character of the building, and the ceiling to floor windows - at the rear of



*Victoria Working Men's Club and interior refurbishment*

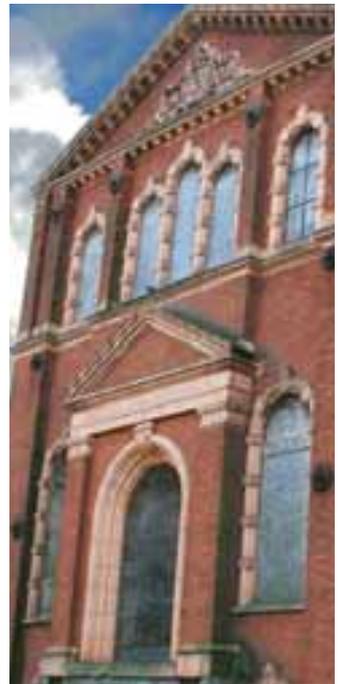
the property - provide stunning views out to sea.

NUE was the first scheme to offer interest free loans to owners of empty homes to fund the necessary repairs and refurbishments to bring the properties back into use. Owners can apply for up to £25,000 per unit (repayable in three years), with KCC issuing a total of £6 million in loans since 2005.

## Trinity Road update

Work is still underway to determine how the development of the Trinity Road area on the Isle of Sheppey - will move forward. Restoration Youth have transformed the old council offices (Masters House) and we look forward to continuing to see the group work within the community.

In the meantime regeneration officers continue to work with landowners of the site to progress any possible plans for the area. The overwhelming response from the consultation was a desire to keep the Water Tower, and we are continuing to look at ways this could be done.



*Water Tower, Trinity Road*



# Superfast broadband on its way

One of the biggest infrastructure projects in Kent's history will start this year as better broadband is delivered across the county by Kent County Council (KCC) and BT.

The KCC and BT partnership is backed by £10m of KCC funding, £9.87m from central government, and £19.6m from BT. The contract follows the enormously successful 'Make Kent Quicker' campaign.

Now, with investment, and alongside existing roll-out plans, at least 95% of

properties in Kent will have access to higher-speed fibre broadband by the end of 2015 (with 91% having access to superfast speeds of 24mbps and above) – and every property in the project area able to access download speeds of at least 2mbps.

Surveyors will be making their way across Kent during the rest of this year, with hundreds of miles of fibre planned to be installed in 2014/15, helping to keep the county connected and competitive.

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## Tell us what you think?

We want to communicate clearly with everyone in Swale and to provide you with the information you need about the services we provide.

This magazine and our website are our main communications tools and we are constantly enhancing them, based on your feedback.

Please take a moment to help us understand your views by completing this questionnaire. It's free to post back to us.

### How do you get your information about the council?

- Local newspapers and radio
- Council Website
- Council Facebook page
- Council Twitter page
- This magazine (Inside Swale)
- Council Offices/Gateway or Call Centre
- Local library
- I'm not interested in understanding how the council is trying to make Swale a better place.
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### How would you rate this magazine for....

	Very Good	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
Useful information?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Design and layout?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Ease of reading?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

### Would you like us to include more, the same, or less information about the following topics:

	More	Same	Less
Community news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism/Attraction news	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events listings	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contact details	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Councillors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Council services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More general advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Anything else?	_____		

How much of this magazine do you usually read?  all  some  a little  none

Did you know the magazine can also be viewed online at [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk) ?

yes  no

Would you be more or less likely to read this magazine if it were only available on our website and not delivered to your door?  more likely  same  less likely

If we produced a version that could be emailed directly to you instead – would that be of interest?  yes  no

Is this magazine...  too long  about right  not long enough

We aim to keep you informed by publishing four editions a year. Is this...

too many issues  about right  too few issues

**Please return to: (SX20 Business Reply Service) Communications Team,  
Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3BR**

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# 'Visit Swale' to become part of 'Visit Kent'

## A new dedicated micro-site for Swale from September 2013

The website 'Visit Swale' will continue under the umbrella website 'Visit Kent', helping to promote all of Swale's tourism, business and social events - allowing a much wider audience to see what the Borough has to offer.

In order to populate the site, we are asking all Swale tourism businesses, event organisers, accommodation and attraction providers to add their details to the new site by completing the forms on <http://visit.swale.gov.uk/visit-kent-working-with-visit-swale/>

The forms should be returned to **Alanna Kite** at **Visit Kent, 28-30 St Peters Street, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2BQ** or email [alanna.kite@visitkent.co.uk](mailto:alanna.kite@visitkent.co.uk). High resolution images are welcomed with your entry. Contact **Alanna on 01227 812 910** for further details.

Please help us to show visitors to Swale everything the Borough has to offer by including your events!

The existing Visit Swale website will remain available until September. Amendments or updates can still be made by emailing [tourism@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@swale.gov.uk),

or sending your details to **Tourism, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 3HT** [www.swale.gov.uk](http://www.swale.gov.uk).



*Barton's Point Coastal Park*

# Primary School football tournament

The first primary school football tournament was held at the Sheppey Sports Club on 7 May, in conjunction with the Kent Football Association (KFA).

Teams from St Edward's Catholic Primary School, Westminster Primary School, Rose Street Primary School, and St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Sittingbourne, joined together in the tournament organised by Swale Council's sports development officer, Elaine Price. Team members all have either a medical condition, disability, or are children in need, including those for whom English is not their first language and, young carers.



*Former Mayor of Swale, Cllr. Pat Sandle with the winning Westminster Bees team*

Former Mayor of Swale Cllr. Pat Sandle and Stephanie Gadd from The Kent FA presented players with certificates and medals for the winning team, the Westminster Bees!

Congratulations to all the teams involved – Westminster Bees, Rose Street, Westminster Wasps, St Edwards Lions, St Edwards Tigers and St Peters.

Special thanks to Sheppey FM and Tiger group in Sheerness for their support.

**Want to join in?** Weekly football sessions for anyone aged between 7-14, are held on Friday evenings from 4pm to 6pm at £1 each. Contact **Elaine 01795 417 142.**

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## Active Swale Sports Awards update

We would like to apologise for omitting a winner from the Senior Award Winners category within the Active Swale Sports Awards that were celebrated in the Spring issue of Inside Swale. The award is being shared with Milton Indoor Ladies Triples and Ladies from Sheerness – St Georges Bowling Club. Congratulations again to all those who won an award.

# Academy students bring Noise Action Week to our screens

Students from the Isle of Sheppey Academy have brought the issues of noise pollution to film in an attempt to raise awareness of the effects of excessive noise as part of Noise Action Week (20-24 May).

Noise in the wrong place at the wrong time can affect the quality of life in our neighbourhoods. Noise is a common cause of neighbour disputes, and can impact our health and well-being.



*The Mayor, Sue Gent, with students and staff from Sheppey Academy*

Working with the council, and the Academy's Head of Media, Karen Gray, the students filmed a variety of scenarios in a unique style to highlight the serious issue of tackling nuisance noise and the impact it can have.

The Academy embraced the idea of the project earlier this year, giving the

students the opportunity to inject some real personality into the project by fulfilling both acting and production roles. The students, between 14-18 years-old, also injected some fun into the process by using their own individual artistic approach!

Swale's Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs, Councillor David Simmons said: "The effects of noise pollution can be devastating, but on some occasions can be resolved simply by communicating with our neighbours. We wanted to raise awareness of both elements and, working with the Academy, I hope we have achieved just that."

To view the film visit our website or visit SwaleCouncil on YouTube.

For tips on reducing noise in the home or dealing with noise issues visit [www.swale.gov.uk/noise](http://www.swale.gov.uk/noise).



*A clip from the film where noise upsets a relaxing day off*



## FACES of Kent

(Families Affected by Caring Empowerment Services)

Aims to reduce the stress and stigma caused as a result of the caring role for unpaid Family Carers and in the case of Young Carers, to restore lost childhood.

**We offer a FREE and CONFIDENTIAL service including Information, Advice, Guidance, Advocacy and Short Break Opportunities**

**Young Carers Support** - aged 5-18 years that are helping to care for someone

For further details on the above and how we can support you please contact us:

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

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## Healthy environment

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# Do you want to save money, improve health and reduce your carbon footprint?



Earlier this year we announced that the council has introduced two Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Sittingbourne. AQMAs are put in place when air pollutants in the area exceed the national guidelines for human health.

We also have air quality management areas in Newington and Ospringe. The communities in these areas have worked together to bring pollution levels down, and we now need more people to help us in Sittingbourne.

Businesses and local people can be more efficient and save money on fuel, whilst at the same time cutting obesity and respiratory conditions and heart disease. The same actions will reduce local and national air pollution.

If you would be willing and have time to help us with local projects and steering groups to reduce pollution in East Street and St Pauls, we would like to hear from you. We need motivated people to work together to improve air quality in their own community.

If you cannot help with the group but would be willing to complete a survey please contact us. This would help us gather information for these areas about local travel patterns.

For more information, contact Sue Kennedy at Swale Borough Council for further information **01795 417 229** or email [pollution@swale.gov.uk](mailto:pollution@swale.gov.uk).

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## New food waste and recycling collections



In April 2014, we will be increasing recycling opportunities with your waste and recycling collections. Work is still underway to finalise the details of any changes you may see, but the main change will be the introduction of a weekly food waste collection.

To help answer as many questions as we can about this new service, we have created a frequently asked question section on our website. Updates will be made to this page when information becomes available.

We will also ensure information is supplied to each householder before the service comes into effect in 2014.

For more information visit [www.swale.gov.uk/new-collections](http://www.swale.gov.uk/new-collections)

# Award winning beaches on Sheppey



Beaches in Sheerness, Minster-on-Sea and Leysdown have been awarded a Seaside Award by Keep Britain Tidy. Together with the recommendation from the Marine Conservation Society within the Good Beach Guide, Sheppey's beaches are proving to be a must visit location for the Borough!

**Seaside  
Award  
2013**



## Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park Faversham Interested in volunteering?

There are exciting opportunities at Oare Gunpowder Works

We are currently recruiting;

- Visitor Centre 'Meeter and Greeters'
- Heritage volunteers
- Event volunteers
- Environmental Education volunteers
- Friends of Oare Gunpowder works Practical Conservation Group



To find out more please email Mary at Kent Countryside Management Partnerships on [mary.tate@kent.gov.uk](mailto:mary.tate@kent.gov.uk) or call 01622 683695 [www.gunpowderworks.co.uk](http://www.gunpowderworks.co.uk)

## Beach hut developments

Beach huts can now be found on Sheppey, thanks to a group of residents who have formed the Minster Beach Hut Association (MBHA) to work with the council in pushing the project forward.

Local residents contacted the council to express their interest in the idea last summer. The project has moved forward at a fast pace and the huts have now been installed. Ten huts will be used by the members of the group and three will be available to lease for the period of the two year pilot programme. Contact Mark Whitton from the MBHA on

[mbha@outlook.com](mailto:mbha@outlook.com)

# Cycling in Swale

Cycling took Britain by storm in 2012 as the Olympic team rode home with 12 medals. Cycling has continued to grip the nation as more people are experiencing the sport competitively, or simply for fun.

Bike Week is the UK's biggest mass participation cycling event. 2012 saw almost half a million people taking part in the celebrations of cycling across the UK. It is anticipated that thousands of cyclists, old and new, will jump on their bikes during this year's British Cycling Week between 15-23 June 2013.

Swale Borough Council has been working in partnership with Kent County Council and Amicus Horizon to develop a programme of cycling events in conjunction with Sky Ride.

Running until September, the free community rides across the Borough offer a great way of getting out and exploring the area and meeting like-minded people.

There will be rides for all ages and abilities and British Cycling-trained ride leaders – friendly local volunteers who want to share their enthusiasm and knowledge – will guide

participants along a variety of fascinating rural and urban routes. They will be on hand to provide friendly encouragement and guidance. In addition, there will be a number of “community bike workshops” to recycle and repair bikes so that everyone can get involved.

For more Sky Ride information visit the website [www.goskyride.com](http://www.goskyride.com)

Make the most of an additional opportunity to get out and see Swale whilst burning the calories - take a look at the council's calorie maps available on [visit.swale.gov.uk/swale-walks](http://visit.swale.gov.uk/swale-walks). The maps show six new walks in different parts of the Borough, with an approximate number of steps it would take to complete the walk.



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



Medway  
NHS Foundation Trust



## Enhanced services for Multiple Sclerosis patients

Multiple Sclerosis patients in Medway no longer have to travel to London for treatment

Investigative procedures and diagnostic results, which were previously dealt with at King's College Hospital, can now be carried out locally at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

The repatriation of the MS service not only reduces stress for patients, who may find it difficult to travel to receive treatment, but waiting lists have also been cut and patients are being seen more quickly.

The introduction of the 'one stop shop' has benefited patients a great deal as they can now have all investigations completed in one day, such as blood tests and lumbar punctures, instead of having to schedule multiple appointments.

Anne-Marie Moor, Adult Medicine TP Co-ordinator said: "This service has been successfully up and running for three months now and feedback from patients has been very positive.

"Now the service is based at Medway patients are receiving the same efficient service, but they are closer to home and have a shorter wait."

This success formed part of a service improvement project between a higher specialist neurology trainee and management at Medway Hospital. This pairing scheme between doctors and managers is an educational initiative fully supported by Trust Leadership Tutor Dr Ghada Ramadan and KSS Deanery School of Clinical Leadership. It aims to develop clinical leadership skills for doctors in training helped by managers to enhance patient experience and care.

# Seven-day at-home care team to be launched

More patients in Medway and Swale will soon be able to recover from surgery in the comfort of their own homes, thanks to the formation of a dedicated homecare team.

The Surgical Patient Enhancement Team (SPET), will also have a positive impact on the hospital, freeing up more beds for emergency admissions and reducing waiting times.

The new service will improve patient experience, both for those who can be treated at home by the SPET and those who are quickly provided with a bed as a result.

The seven-day at-home service is to be offered by the Team who will be suitably trained to look after and treat those who have been granted early discharge after surgery, subject to examination.

Many patients prefer to be in familiar surrounds, and as a result recovery is often quicker in a home environment. This also has the added advantage of reducing risks such as infection.

The hospital already has a well-established Bridging Team, which provides some post-surgery home care to patients. This team will now form part of the SPET, along with an experienced physiotherapist, a part time occupational therapist, an enhanced recovery programme clinical nurse specialist, and an emergency pathway coordinator.

Managing this team will be a senior sister with extensive knowledge and experience in surgical fields, particularly orthopaedics.

## Day of celebration for nurses and midwives at Medway

The heart of Medway Maritime Hospital was a hub of celebration as the Trust commended its dedicated nursing and midwifery staff to mark International Nurses Day and International Day of the Midwife in May.

The special occasion also provided the Trust with an opportunity to launch the NHS England initiative of Compassion in Practice.

The scheme is based around six key principles known as the 6Cs: Care, Compassion, Competence, Communication, Courage, Commitment

The 6Cs represent the areas that are important to everyone working in the NHS and embody the areas the Trust supports and strives to achieve every day.

Different specialities across the Trust were represented at numerous information stalls including children's' health, end of life care, infection control, Macmillan services, HR teams, and critical care.



# 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



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nicholashampshire@hotmail.com

## Boughton & Courtenay



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george.bobbin@btinternet.com



**Andrew Bowles**  
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## Chalkwell



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**Ghlin Whelan**  
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## Davington Priory



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## Kemsley



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## Milton Regis



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**Tony Winckless**  
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## Minster Cliffs



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**Adrian Crowther**  
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## Murston



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## Murston cont.



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## Queenborough & Halfway



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### **Mick Constable**

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## Roman



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## Sheerness East



### **Mark Ellen**

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### **David Sargent**

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## Sheerness West



### **Angela Harrison**

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### **Stephen Worrall**

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## Sheppey Central



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### **June Garrad**

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## Sheppey Central cont.



### **John Morris**

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## St Ann's



### **Mike Cosgrove**

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### **Derek Conway**

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### **Sylvia Bennett**

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## Teynham & Lynsted



### **Richard Barnicott**

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## Watling



### **David Simmons**

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### **Ted Wilcox**

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## Woodstock



### **Alan Willicombe**

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alan188@aol.com



### **Jean Willicombe**

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jeanwillicombe@aol.com

# Centres in Swale

We have Age UK Centres in Faversham, Sittingbourne and Sheppey offering a wide range of services, help and support to older people in Swale. Services and social opportunities include:

- Advocacy service** ● **Bathing**
- Befriending** ● **Care navigator**
- Dementia day care and support**
- Domiciliary care** ● **Exercise classes**
- Freshly cooked lunches**
- Hairdressing** ● **Home from hospital**
- Information and advice service**
- IT training** ● **Toe nail cutting**



Please note not all centres offer all the services listed above.

For more information you can contact the centres week days between 9am and 4pm.

**Sittingbourne** ..... **01795 477 520**  
**Faversham** ..... **01795 532 766**  
**Sheppey** ..... **01795 662 562**

We are only able to offer the wide range of services that we do, because of the help we get from a group of enthusiastic, friendly volunteers. Volunteers assist our staff in a variety of ways and we offer training, help and support to their role. Volunteers choose to help us for a wide variety of reasons, including: making friends and meeting new people,

learning new skills, giving something back to the local community, a stepping stone to employment, or something worthwhile to do. Whatever the reason, our volunteers agree that they enjoy their time with us.

Currently we have vacancies in Swale for:

- Help in our Day Centre with activities
- Help delivering Meals on Wheels
- Join our befriending scheme and visit an older person on a regular basis
- Assist with administration
- Become a Trustee
- Help in our new coffee shop at our Faversham Centre
- Assist the information and advice scheme
- Become a relief mini bus driver

If you have time to spare please call **Gill Ball on 07735 556 811** or email **agecorecruiter@btinternet.com** as she would love to hear from you.