

Summer 2015

# inside Swale

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# Welcome to the summer edition of Inside Swale



Andrew Bowles,  
Leader Swale  
Borough Council

It has been a busy few months since our last edition and there has been a lot going on across the Borough, including the BBC airing a series with our housing officers, the Magna Carta celebrations in Faversham, and raising the Blue Flag for Sheerness Beach.

On the business front, it is encouraging to see progress on Aldi's new distribution centre being built on Sheppey. This will create 400 well paid jobs and, alongside the opening of the new Lidl store in Sittingbourne, shows the local economy is going from strength to strength. This is backed up by the 30% drop in local unemployment and the huge rise in apprenticeships in the past two years, helping young people get the skills they need for their working lives.

The regeneration of Sittingbourne continues to gather pace with the addition of our new partner Neighbour who will be responsible for developing the residential offer to new and existing residents.

I know most people have probably heard enough about the elections, but for the first time our magazine has a pull out section with the contact details of your local councillors for you to keep.

And finally, we would like to hear your views about Inside Swale, so we are asking you to complete a brief survey. As an incentive we are offering one lucky reader a night's stay in one of Elmley's famous shepherd huts, one of the three national nature reserves we are lucky enough to have in the Borough.

## ▶ Swale beaches among best in England



Keep Britain Tidy announced that Sheerness Beach is one of only 60 beaches in England that will be flying the Blue Flag – the international standard for the best beaches in the world.

Sheerness will also be joined by Minster Leas and Leysdown Beach as one of 111 beaches that have received the Seaside Award.

This year three Swale beaches will be flying flags to show they are among the best in the country.

Councillor David Simmons, Cabinet Member for Environment and Rural Affairs, said: “Having three local beaches named among the best in the country is something we can all be immensely proud of. As well as our dedicated staff, we’re lucky to have so many enthusiastic volunteers working alongside them to keep our beaches clean and safe. These awards mean local people and visitors can be assured everything is being done to keep our beaches, and waters, safe and clean places for everyone to enjoy.”

To find out more about your local beaches, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/seafront](http://www.swale.gov.uk/seafront).

## ▶ A great experience right on our doorstep



**Pete Raine, Swale’s Director of Regeneration and a keen naturalist, spent two nights ‘Glamping’ in Elmley.**

In our crowded corner of South Eastern England, the south coast of the Isle of Sheppey is as close to genuine wilderness as you can get. It’s a unique and sometimes bizarre landscape of big skies, wide open marshland, grazing cattle, but with a backdrop of the prison in one direction and the heavy industry around Kemsley in the other – with two bridges over the Swale added in for good measure.

Gareth and Georgina Fulton now run Elmley Nature reserve, which is the only privately owned and operated nature reserve in England. It has 3,200 acres of grazing marshes and mudflats, complete with breeding avocets,

drifting marsh harriers, and boxing hares. As a wildlife venue it’s hard to beat, and the perfect way to see it is by staying overnight in one of their three shepherd’s huts, which offer beautiful accommodation right in the middle of the reserve.

I was lucky enough to spend two days there in March; a tiny wood burning stove kept us cosy, and the early morning views of a hunting owl and wheeling lapwings were quite wonderful. A fantastic experience right on Swale’s doorstep.

# ▶ BBC programme 'The Housing Enforcers' heads to Swale



BBC One daytime programme 'The Housing Enforcers', featuring Matt Allwright, the champion of consumer rights, has been visiting Sittingbourne and Sheerness this year.

The Housing Enforcers' presenter Matt Allwright joined Swale Borough Council as a trainee housing officer, separating hovels from homes in a number of locations across the Borough. In the series which was screened in May, Matt confronted all kinds of people associated with housing issues; from landlords to tenants, and even nightmare neighbours, Matt came to the rescue of anyone in need.

Sue Davis, one of Swale Borough Council's Housing Options Officers who accompanied Matt for several visits, said she really enjoyed the whole process. "When it was first mooted, I was naturally quite nervous about the occasion....after all I don't normally have a camera crew following me around as part of my day job! However, as the programme gathered momentum, it became a really enjoyable experience. Matt himself was extremely professional and was a pleasure to work with."

Cllr John Wright, Cabinet Member for Housing said: "Clearly there was an important purpose to this type of TV programme showing the important work we do in Swale on a day-to-day basis. Our team work extremely hard to do everything in their power to prevent homelessness and provide sound advice to our residents."

Hannah Gates, one of Swale's Housing Support Officers also featured in the programme. "I was involved in one or two of the episodes and, like Sue, I very much enjoyed working with Matt and his production crew, and also thought by drawing attention to these issues, it was a really good idea for us to be involved."



Our team work extremely hard to do everything in their power to help prevent homelessness.

## ▶ £160k worth of grants available for local groups

Swale Borough Council is making £162,800 available for local groups to support projects that benefit the community over the next year. The funding pot was announced at the council's Annual General Meeting by Cabinet Member for Localism Cllr Mike Whiting. He said: "We are lucky to have such a wealth of local groups that are doing a tremendous amount to improve lives across the Borough, and these grants are part of our commitment to supporting them in their work.

"Councillors themselves have more than £110,000 available between them to support schemes in their areas – be it extra bins, supporting events, or helping local good causes. Even small amounts of money really can make a big difference, so I am looking forward to seeing all the applications for support over the next year."

There are currently five grant schemes that are available to communities to support a range of projects within the Borough, and improve the cultural and leisure offer:

- £112,800 members' localism grants - £2,400 per councillor
- £10,000 heritage grants – up to £1,000 per project
- £5,000 culture grants – up to £1,000 per project
- £20,000 sport and physical activity grants – between £200 and £1,000
- £15,000 WW1 centenary grants – up to £750 per project

To find out more about the grants on offer, and get information on how to apply, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/localism-grants](http://www.swale.gov.uk/localism-grants)

## ▶ Super Bowl winner comes to Oasis Academy



American football is still a rare sight in British schools – so what better way to be introduced to the sport than by a two-time Super Bowl winner?

Former NFL star Byron Chamberlain, who played for the Denver Broncos, Minnesota Vikings, and Washington Redskins, spent two days at the Oasis Academy on Sheppey in May teaching students the basics of America's most popular sport.

The students were taught some of the techniques and skills of the game, before being split into teams to play a few games of 'flag football' – a non-tackle version of the game using flag belts, similar to tag rugby.

The sessions, which were arranged by Canterbury-based company American Football Development, were hugely successful, with the teachers remarking how quickly all the students took to the game – even those who didn't normally get involved with the sport.

Byron greatly enjoyed teaching the students, and American Football Development are looking forward to bringing the sport to more schools across the Borough.

# ▶ Meet the Mayor



*New Mayor, Cllr Anita Walker, presented with a bouquet from Chief Executive Abdool Kara.*

Cllr Anita Walker has been appointed Mayor of Swale for the 2015/16 civic year. She succeeds Cllr George Bobbin whose term of office finished in May.

Anita was born in Faversham and has lived and worked in the Abbey Ward all her life. She has been a member of Faversham Town Council since 2000, and a member of Swale Borough Council since 2004.

Away from her work at the Council, Anita is very active in amateur operatics and dramatics. She has appeared with Applegate in Sittingbourne, Faversham Philharmonic Society, Up The Creek Pantomime Society, Kent Countryside Productions (open air Shakespeare), the Mystery Plays at Canterbury Cathedral, and at the Arden Theatre in Faversham.

Anita is a Trustee of Faversham Municipal and Bensted Charities, also runs craft fairs in Faversham, and works part-time as a self-employed secretary to a Faversham accountant.



*Steve Worrall with Therese Davies and Mayor Cllr George Bobbin*

## ▶ Steve Worrall receives Honorary Alderman title

Former Mayor of Swale Steve Worrall has been made an Honorary Alderman in recognition for his 42 years of service to the Council.

The 85-year-old from New Road, Sheerness, was given the title by last year's Mayor of Swale Cllr George Bobbin.

Born in Yorkshire, he was first elected to the Council in 1973. He represented Sheerness West Ward for the entire period. He missed out on being re-elected in May's elections.

Steve said: "It's been a privilege and honour and I'm very proud to have the new title of Honorary Alderman. I must also thank my Mayoress Therese Davies. She has been a big inspiration in my time as a Councillor."

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# A community to be proud of

## ► Bowater Memorial plaque looking for new home

A plaque commemorating the workers of the old Bowater Mill who died during World War II has been rescued from the former Kemsley Arms Pub, and is now looking for a new permanent home. The plaque which weighs over 100 kilos, lists 91 casualties who were working in the building when it was bombed in 1941.

Steffan Jordan, Chairman of the Sittingbourne branch of the Royal British Legion, said: “This is an absolutely beautiful bronze plaque and I am delighted we have had the foresight to rescue it.”



Cllr Andrew Bowles, Leader of the Council said: “We are currently looking after the plaque and it is on public view in Swale House. A working group is finalising its recommendations to the Council on proposals for a permanent home, and we will let you now where it will be when a decision is made.”

## ► Big Local is big news in East Sheppey

A community project that is making a real difference on the Island is looking to build on a successful first year. The Big Local Eastern Sheppey Partnership helps people in and around Eastchurch, Warden, and Leysdown to improve their local communities. Since September the Partnership has been working on a variety of small projects and encouraging residents to get involved.

One project saw HMP Stanford Hill upcycling old benches, which were then installed by a local builder.

A small grant scheme offers organisations that work in the local community up to £500 to help them to deliver services and activities. So far this has helped 19 schemes, including providing a defibrillator for Eastchurch, and cooking equipment for the over 50s and 60s club.

Plans are currently being developed for a cycle hire service for residents and visitors, and a bespoke employability programme to support local young people.

The partnership want to build on their success and are asking for ideas for projects for the next year and beyond. To get involved, contact Sarah Williams on **01795 473 828**.

## Blank Canvas celebrates Sheppey and its culture

More than 100 people attended the opening of an art exhibition at the Sheppey Gateway earlier this year featuring work from local 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training.

The opening gave visitors the chance to experience the artwork in the court yard, sample some fine food from the community chef, and take part in some fun family learning activities.

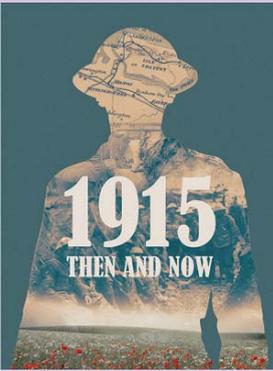
The project gave young people life sized wooden letters spelling out "The Isle of Sheppey" which were decorated in a variety of styles and artworks that explore Sheppey's rich cultural and creative legacy.



More than 20 young people took part in the eight week programme, and have since gone on to find employment, volunteering and further education opportunities.

For more information about the project please visit [www.sheppematters.org](http://www.sheppematters.org)

## Art competition for young people in Swale



1915: Then and Now is a project to inspire young people aged 15-25 across Swale to get involved in a First World War art project, to learn how it impacted on people's lives.

Young people who take part will learn about local history and develop their creative skills with the help of professional local artists. Their finished work will be entered into a competition judged by a panel of experts.

The award and prize giving ceremony will be held in November in Faversham, with an exhibition of the works travelling across the Borough.

To take part, young people need to:

- Find WW1 stories relevant to Swale. It could be a museum object, photograph, or newspaper article about an event.
- Draw a picture, paint, it or make a sculpture inspired by the story.
- Take a picture of the artwork, along with a 50 -150 word explanation about why you made the piece, and email [experiments@creativepeopleplace.info](mailto:experiments@creativepeopleplace.info)

**The deadline for entries is Friday, 11 September 2015.**

For more information contact Nicole Mollett at [Nicole@creativepeopleplace.info](mailto:Nicole@creativepeopleplace.info) or visit [www.ideastest.co.uk](http://www.ideastest.co.uk) or <http://creativepeopleplace.info/1915-2/>

# Newington pupils learn about WWI



*Pupils of Newington school council receive the books from two of the authors, Dean Coles and Thelma Dudley*

Newington said: "I was particularly keen to support the Newington History Group as my grandfather Franklin Wright MC served during WW1 and married my grandmother Kathleen Millen in Newington Church in 1918. They were among the lucky ones to return home, although changed by their experiences as recounted by my father in the book."

The books were handed over to members of the school council by two of the three authors, Dean Coles and Thelma Dudley.

Newington Remembers took the authors two years to research and is available for £10 (plus £2.50 p&p) from **01795 842 711** or [thelma@newingtonhistory.co.uk](mailto:thelma@newingtonhistory.co.uk)

Staff at Newington C of E Primary School have a new local tool to help local children learn about World War One after being given copies of Newington History Group's (NHG) recently published book *Newington Remembers*.

The book details the social and military lives of the 140 villagers who fought in the war, including the 31 who died. Fifteen copies of the book were presented to the school during a special assembly.

Cllr John Wright, Ward Councillor for Newington said: "I was particularly keen to support the Newington History Group as my grandfather Franklin Wright MC served during WW1 and married my grandmother Kathleen Millen in Newington Church in 1918. They were among the lucky ones to return home, although changed by their experiences as recounted by my father in the book."



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# ▶ Diabetes in children – know the signs



Ali Farrant from Sittingbourne read with interest our article on diabetes in the last Inside Swale, and as a result wrote this moving piece about her sixteen year old daughter. “It is six and a half years since my daughter Louise was diagnosed with Type One diabetes. From that day in December, our lives have changed forever and ‘Type 1’ is an ever present feature in our day. We live with it and Lou endeavours to lead a ‘normal’ life, but we cannot forget it and we ignore it at our peril!

“The diagnosis was a shock, out of the blue, occurrence. I realised Louise was not her usual self, feeling tired and unusually emotional. The thing I noticed above everything else was that she was drinking a lot of water, by the half pint. I knew this was a sign of diabetes or kidney problems, but the doctor found nothing untoward when he tested her urine, and sent us away. The symptoms continued and on a second insistent trip to the doctors, problems were found and a swift admittance to hospital occurred. What was happening within Louise’s body was a failure of the insulin-producing cells in her pancreas, which are needed to transport the energy broken down from carbohydrates for use in the body. Their failure leads to a build-up of glucose in the bloodstream, causing incessant thirst and increased urination to dispose of it, and can eventually lead to the dangerous condition, Diabetic Ketoacidosis (DKA). My instincts as a mum meant Louise was diagnosed before this happened, but goes to prove even the professionals can get it wrong.

“Louise has to regularly take blood samples to check her blood sugar levels and she injects insulin for the carbohydrate she eats, but contrary to popular

misconceptions, she can eat sweet things! Her condition was not caused by eating too much sugar or lifestyle choices, but an auto-immune reaction. The facts of type 1 are that it cannot be cured and could not be survived without insulin. Louise has been admitted to hospital with this several times. It can be very lonely living with this condition, and many experience depression whilst trying to come to terms with this life-long condition. The support of family, friends and a caring health care team greatly assists with this.”



*Diabetes UK formulised the above 4Ts campaign in 2012 to help raise awareness of symptoms.*

# ▶ Enjoy summer in Swale

**Summer is the perfect time to get out and enjoy what Swale has to offer – there’s a lot going on right on your doorstep!**



*Milton Creek Country Park*

Swale is home to a number of nationally famous attractions that help give the Borough its unique character and charm.

You can take a tour round the fruit collection at Brogdale Farm, enjoy the magnificent scenery of Elmley National Nature Reserve or Milton Creek Country Park, or explore the country house splendour of Belmont House and Gardens.

Explore the many heritage and cultural attractions across Swale including the Fleur de Lis Heritage Centre in Faversham, which also provides a Tourist Information Service.

Soak up the atmosphere of the Faversham Hop Festival, with great music, stalls and performances throughout the Town. Enjoy the pirate lifestyle at the Pirate Weekend at Barton’s Point Coastal Park and take part in one of the biggest water fights in the world!



*Faversham Hop Festival*



*Court Hall, Milton Regis*

Follow the dramatic story of the Isle of Sheppey at Blue Town Heritage Centre or the Minster Gatehouse Museum, where you can also learn more about the birth of aviation at Muswell Manor. The Sittingbourne Heritage Museum and Court Hall, Milton Regis, also offer an array of local and medieval artefacts to discover.

The Isle of Sheppey’s popular Minster, Sheerness, and Leysdown beaches make a fantastic setting for

a summer getaway, and Barton’s Point Coastal Park provides great facilities for water sports and cycling, with 40 acres devoted to leisure pursuits.

A mix of small, quirky independent shops and popular high street chains make up the town centres of Swale, giving you the chance to indulge and uncover new finds.

With markets in Faversham, Sheerness, and Sittingbourne, you’ll be spoilt for choice with the local produce and unique bargains on offer. And after all that shopping, you’ll be able to relax at one of the delicious and cosy restaurants with some locally sourced food and drink.



*Barton’s Point Coastal Park*  
Photo courtesy of Ray Eden

To plan your Summer in Swale, visit [www.visit-swale.co.uk](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk)

# ▶ Planning permission granted for 400 new Sheppey jobs

A new distribution centre near Queenborough will provide around 400 well-paid jobs.

Planning permission was recently granted for the new Aldi regional distribution centre and offices, which will support their logistics operation in the South-East.

Once complete, the buildings are expected to

provide 400 jobs for the local area, with an average salary of £28,000.

The developers have included measures to reduce the environmental impact of the building, which includes extensive landscaping to reduce flood risk at the site. The main building will also be painted in shades of green so as to sensitively blend into the surrounding countryside and reduce the likelihood of bird strikes.



The Borough is already home to two other major national retailers' regional distribution centres, including Morrisons in Sittingbourne and Marks and Spencer in Faversham.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, said: "Aldi's commitment to investing in the Isle of

Sheppey will be a huge boost to the local economy. I am delighted that they have recognised the great advantages for businesses in Swale, namely good transport links, a readily available workforce, and an amazing working environment."

To find out more about investment opportunities and business support in Swale visit our website: [www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk](http://www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk).

# New look Council for Swale

The local elections on Thursday, 7 May saw all 47 council seats contested across the Borough's 24 wards. Following this, the political composition of the Council is: Conservatives 32 seats, Ukip 9 seats, Labour 4 seats, and Independent 2 seats.

The full results are available at [www.swale.gov.uk/elections](http://www.swale.gov.uk/elections)

Cllr Andrew Bowles was re-elected as Leader of the Council. He said: "It is a genuine privilege to be elected as Leader of the Council, and I am grateful to have the opportunity to lead the organisation over the coming years.

"My cabinet colleagues and I want people to feel proud of the Borough, and their Council, and we will continue to work hard to deliver our ambitions to make Swale a better place."

To find out more about the council and your local councillors, visit:  
[www.swale.gov.uk/council](http://www.swale.gov.uk/council)

## New term, new councillors

Following May's local elections, there are 18 new councillors on Swale Borough Council. We asked three of them about their experiences.



**Cllr James Hunt**  
**The Meads Ward**

I was very pleased to have been elected to represent the residents of The Meads. Since a young age I have had a keen interest in the local communities where I live, and to do what I can to make that environment a better place to live.

The Meads has a great community and I look forward to using the knowledge I have gained as a parish councillor, and working with the residents, to create a ward they can be even more proud of.



**Cllr Paul Fleming**  
**Roman Ward**

Three years ago, I had no interest in politics. To me it was the same old thing over and over again. As you can imagine, it will take me time to learn this job but it's an exciting challenge.

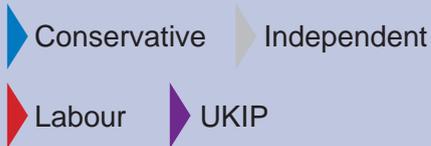
I am retired and I promise to work as hard for my ward and the Council as I did in my working life. Being ex-army, I am a team player. I promise to listen to the residents in my ward and use their views to help make decisions within the Council.



**Cllr Nigel Kay**  
**St Ann's Ward**

I have lived in the Faversham area virtually all my life and attended Hernhill, Ethelbert Road (now the Abbey School), and Slough College of Higher Education.

Prior to being on Faversham and Swale Councils, being a councillor was something that I had never done before. I had got to a stage where I wanted to do something to make a contribution to the area that I have lived in for over 30 years.



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## The Meads



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### George Samuel

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georgesamuel@swale.gov.uk

# Swale Borough Council Services



24/7 telephone payments for Council Tax, business rates and parking fines .....	01795 417 766
Anti-social behaviour .....	101
Building control .....	01634 331 133
Council tax .....	01795 417 272
Customer service .....	01795 417 850
Election Services .....	01795 417 464
Environmental or flooding issues .....	0800 807 060
Housing benefits .....	01795 417 555
Housing options .....	01795 417 622
Planning .....	01622 602 736
Recycling and refuse .....	01795 417 888
Sheppey Gateway .....	03000 414 141

## OUT OF HOURS

Homeless - no alternative accommodation .....	01634 304 400
Noise nuisance .....	01795 417 575
Stray dogs - if you have found a stray dog .....	07795 237 479

# Kent County Council Services



Kent County Council .....	03000 414 141
Adult social services and health .....	03000 416 161
Adult education .....	03000 412 222
Blue badges .....	03000 416 262
Carers emergency line .....	03000 416 363
Children and families information service .....	03000 412 323
Children's social services .....	03000 411 111
Concessionary fares .....	03000 418 383
Country parks .....	03000 417 272
Education .....	03000 412 121
Environment .....	03000 417 171
Highways .....	03000 418 181
Highway emergencies .....	03000 419 191
Libraries and archives .....	03000 413 131

# Your Cabinet Members

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**Leader**

**Cllr Andrew Bowles**

01227 752 840 or 07778 629 879

leader@swale.gov.uk



**Deputy Leader and Planning**

**Cllr Gerry Lewin**

01634 366 113

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**Finance**

**Cllr Dewar-Whalley**

07889 808 871

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**Performance**

**Cllr Ted Wilcox**

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**Localism, Sport, Culture and Heritage**

**Cllr Mike Whiting**

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**Regeneration**

**Cllr Mike Cosgrove**

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**Housing**

**Cllr John Wright**

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**Environment and Rural Affairs**

**Cllr David Simmons**

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**Community Safety and Health**

**Cllr Ken Pugh**

01795 871 388

kenpugh@uwclub.net

# Apprentices big success at Swale Borough Council



Swale Borough Council is looking for young people to join the next round of apprenticeships. The Council is a big supporter of apprentices and has taken on up to ten young people each year working across a range of departments.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration said: "This will be the third year we have taken on apprentices, and our managers know that not only is this a helpful step on the ladder of a career but a really

great experience for the young people themselves. Given that we have a growing local economy, I believe that students, parents, and head teachers should seriously consider apprenticeship opportunities as a very positive decision."

For further information of apprentice schemes in Swale, contact: [lornawyrill@swale.gov.uk](mailto:lornawyrill@swale.gov.uk) or call 01795 417 194.



## Jazmin Cross

The apprenticeship scheme is a great opportunity to come fresh out of school and be able to develop into the working world. I have come so far since starting in September because I have gained good experience and confidence.

I have the opportunity to be imaginative and deliver new ideas to the team. It's rewarding to know the little things I do can make a big difference to someone.



## Morgan Ryan

Being an apprentice here was definitely one of the best things I have done. I feel it has worked very well and given a brilliant kick-start to our careers, especially for me coming straight from school.

The thing I have liked the most is the team I am in, and being treated like an adult rather than being taught at a school/college still.



## Hannah Lillis

This is an excellent way of developing new skills, whilst experiencing the working world first hand. Working here has helped my personal and professional development, and is something I know I can carry with me throughout my career.

I thoroughly enjoy my job as my work is constantly changing. Knowing that the work I do is helping to improve the Borough I live in is very rewarding



## James Hemus

I've liked the whole apprenticeship scheme as it has helped me progress from college into the real world of work and improved my confidence.

My highlight of the year was getting my first compliment from a client. It sounds like a silly thing to most people, but for me it felt like I had really achieved something.

## ▶ New centre for skills in Sittingbourne



Young people will benefit from state of the art skills training when a new college opens its doors later this year. The new post-16 training facility is being built at Centre 2000 on St Michaels Road. This new college will be operated by Swale Academies Trust in partnership with the successful Swale Skills Centre, and will deliver technical training courses for students in the Swale area and beyond.

The new facility, supported by Masterchef judge, Gregg Wallace, will house a catering and hospitality training kitchen with its own restaurant. There will be three salons for hair and beauty, and fully equipped classrooms and IT facilities on the ground floor. Future plans include using the whole of the top floor for two large state of the art science laboratories. The college principal, Clayton Laker, said: "This new college represents the biggest change in the options available to the young people of Swale in many years."

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration said: "This is very good news for the Borough. I have been a huge supporter of technical colleges, so I am delighted to see this come to fruition here in Swale. We also want to work closely with local businesses to upskill their existing workforces and to further develop apprenticeships across a broad range of jobs."

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

## ▶ First Success for community energy



A community building on the Isle of Sheppey is the first to benefit from solar panels agreed through the newly formed Sheppey Community Energy Trust.

The panels were installed by Chelsfield Solar and donated to the Friendship House by Solarcentury. Already this installation is producing enough electricity to power its total electricity needs. It will also provide an income for the hall for 20 years from the Feed in Tariff.

The project was initiated by the Sheppey Community Energy Trust as part of the Sustainable Sheppey programme. The Trust aim to increase the number of community renewable energy projects on the Island and negotiate community energy benefits that will reduce energy bills to combat the effect of climate change.

Anyone interested in supporting the work of the Energy Trust should contact [steven.baggs@kent.gov.uk](mailto:steven.baggs@kent.gov.uk)

# ▶ Carillion Training open for business



Did you know that local employer **Carillion** is one of the UK's leading construction and support services companies, employing around 50,000 people?

They employ and train a number of construction apprentices each year from their centre in Sittingbourne in three trades - Carpentry, Bricklaying, and Painting/Decorating.

All learners complete a 16 week programme, working towards their Level 1 Diploma, Functional Skills & CSCS card, and are paid a training allowance of £30 per week. This prepares them for the full level 2 apprenticeship in construction.

The level 2 programme consists of Level 2 Diploma, NVQ, Functional Skills and Employer Rights & Responsibilities training, and the allowance increases to £101.05 per week.

To find out more visit our website [www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk/training](http://www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk/training)

## Are you 16-18 and need help to get a job or apprenticeship?

**We have several work based study programmes in Swale which are open to nearly everyone, even if you haven't been in school for some time.**

Courses available locally include Warehousing, Plumbing, Electrical installation, Catering, Hair & Beauty, Engineering, Bricklaying and Painting & Decorating.

These courses could help you get into work and will take students who don't have GCSEs.

If you are aged 16-18 with no firm plans for September and would like advice, please contact Wendy Harwood from CXK on **07725 445 035** or Simon Bounds from KCC on **07713 321 685**.

## DIAMOND HOME SUPPORT

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Faversham

**01795 477766**

[caroline@diamondhomesupport.com](mailto:caroline@diamondhomesupport.com)  
[www.diamondhomesupport.com](http://www.diamondhomesupport.com)



## ▶ SATEDA operating one-stop shops in Swale

Swale Action To End Domestic Abuse (SATEDA) have been delivering support and advocacy services to the victims of abuse across Swale since 2009.

However in recent years they have been able to diversify these services to include one stop shop and drop-in services. This also includes educational and therapeutic group work, counselling, and both educational and therapeutic work with children and young people in schools on a 1:1 basis and in groups. This is in addition to continuing the 1:1 support and advocacy work we have been offering since January 2010.

As a Borough, Swale currently has the second highest number of incidents of domestic abuse in Kent. In 2014/15 there were 4,489 reported domestic abuse incidents. During 2014 SATEDA received 430 new referrals into the service, compared with 242 in 2013.

They respond to increased local need, working together with local partner agencies, volunteers from our local community, and most importantly our clients, towards ending domestic abuse in Swale.

To contact SATEDA call 01795 417 251, email [admin@sateda.org](mailto:admin@sateda.org) or visit them at:

- Sittingbourne One Stop Shop, Tuesdays 9.30-11am  
Phoenix House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne
- Sheppey One Stop Shop, Wednesdays 1-3pm,  
Sheppey Gateway, High Street, Sheerness
- Faversham Drop-In, Tuesdays 3-5pm,  
Amicus Horizon Area Office, Faversham
- Leysdown Drop-In, Wednesdays 9.30-11am,  
Beaches Children Centre, Warden Bay Road, Leysdown.

To find out more about their work, visit [www.sateda.org](http://www.sateda.org)

# Learn to Swim

## at Sheppey Swimming Pool

Our swimming lessons follow the 'Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) Learn to Swim Pathway' – the most successful programme of its kind!



Learning to swim is fun, provides health benefits and could also save a child's life. Drowning is sadly the third most common form of accidental death in children.

Learning to swim really is an essential life skill.  
Contact us to book your child's place today!

For more information please visit:

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

Tel: 01795 668652

Sheppey Leisure Complex

Off the Broadway, Sheerness, Kent ME12 1HH



Neighbourhood

SHARE WITH FRIENDS



SwimIn Swale



@SwimInSwale

A PART OF



Terms and conditions apply.

## Litterers must clean up their act or face fines

People who drop litter on the Borough's streets could be in for a shock – and a hefty fine – as the Council carries out a pilot scheme to tackle litter and dog-fouling across the Borough.

The scheme involves dedicated officers being brought in to target the Borough's litter hot spots, handing out fixed penalty notices (FPNs) of up to £80 to people caught dropping litter or not cleaning up after their dogs.

Cllr David Simmons, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Rural Affairs at the Council, said: "Law abiding residents are sick to death of seeing their local streets blighted by the rubbish and mess left by a small number of thoughtless people. We spend around £850,000 a year on street cleaning, which is a huge amount of money for picking up other people's mess.

"We have already done a lot of work trying to encourage people to take more pride in their local area. We've installed extra bins, given away pocket ashtrays, organised community clean ups, and warned people they face fines if they don't clean up their act."

The first two months of the scheme have seen 257 FPNs handed out by trained officers who have the legal powers to issue fines.

To find out more about what the Council is doing to tackle litter across the Borough, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/litter](http://www.swale.gov.uk/litter).



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# Recycling and Refuse Collection dates

## July 2015 - December 2015

If you are unsure of your collection week go to [www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day](http://www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day) and click the link 'Next Bin Collection' or call Customer Services on 01795 417 850.

  Blue wheelie bin and food waste collection      Green wheelie bin and food waste collection

### Week 1 collections

July 2015							August 2015							September 2015						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

October 2015							November 2015							December 2015						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

### Week 2 collections

July 2015							August 2015							September 2015						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

October 2015							November 2015							December 2015						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													

**During the Christmas/New Year period please look at Inside Swale Winter 2015, our website, or in the local press for your revised collection dates.**

# ▶ Food waste collections

Almost a third of rubbish in our bins is food waste, and an average family throws away around £700 of food shopping every year.

The food waste recycling collection service is collected every week, and all the food waste collected is composted. This helps divert waste away from expensive incineration and landfill, so saves council taxpayers money.

Using the service is easy – homes have been given a small silver caddy to keep in the kitchen, and a larger black and orange caddy with a lockable lid for keeping outdoors.



Simply empty the silver caddy contents

into your black and orange caddy, secure the lockable lid, and put the black and orange caddy out every week alongside your blue or green bin.

For more details about food waste recycling, mixed recycling, garden waste recycling and general waste collection service visit [www.swale.gov.uk/bins-recycling](http://www.swale.gov.uk/bins-recycling)

# ▶ Get your green fingers on a brown bin

As the summer is here, and the garden is in full bloom, many of us are generating more and more garden waste.

Our green garden waste collection is ideal if you are frequent gardener or if you are unable to home compost large amounts of garden waste yourself.

For just £35 a year (67p a week) you will receive a large 240 litre wheelie bin for your leaves, flowers, plants, prunings, grass, and hedge cuttings, and a collection every two weeks.

To find out more, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/garden-waste](http://www.swale.gov.uk/garden-waste) or call **01795 417 888**.

## Yes please

3	meat, fish and bones - raw/cooked
3	fruit and vegetables - raw/cooked
3	all dairy products - cheese etc.
3	eggs
3	bread, cakes and pastries
3	rice, pasta and beans
3	uneaten food
3	tea bags and coffee grounds
3	takeaway leftovers.

## No thank you!

7	packaging of any sort
7	plastic bags
7	liquids
7	oil or liquid fats.



# ▶ What should I do in an emergency?

'It'll never happen to me' is a common thought whenever you see news about a disaster or emergency.



A flooded Faversham Creek

But, no matter how careful you are, there are some things you can't control. Any one of them could hit you and your family hard, damage your home severely, or seriously harm your business.

It could be a fire, a flood, heavy snow, an infectious disease, or even a terrorist attack - they can occur more often than we'd like to think.

Yet it's not hard to make sure you're properly prepared for an emergency. Members of the Kent Resilience Forum have produced a helpful booklet which will tell you how to cope and allow you to create your own household emergency plan.

To view the booklet visit [www.swale.gov.uk/what-should-i-do-in-an-emergency](http://www.swale.gov.uk/what-should-i-do-in-an-emergency), or pick up a copy from the Council's reception.



## 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
- Independent Living Service

*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

# Tell us what you think...and **WIN** a night 'Glamping'

We want to provide everyone in Swale with the information you need about the services we provide as a Council, the work we do, and the difference it makes.

We are constantly improving ways of sharing news and information with you to meet your changing needs and preferences. We'd welcome your views on what you'd like to see by filling in the survey below or online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/insideswale](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/insideswale)

## How do you get information about the Council? (Tick all that apply)

- SBC website  SBC Facebook page  @SwaleCouncil Twitter feed   
This magazine  Local newspapers  Local radio   
Online media (e.g. KMonline/ BBConline)  Council offices or Call Centre   
Attending public meetings  Direct contact with my Councillor  Local library

## How would you rate this magazine for:

- Useful information? very good  good  average  poor  very poor   
Relevance to residents? very good  good  average  poor  very poor   
Interesting stories? very good  good  average  poor  very poor   
Design and layout? very good  good  average  poor  very poor

## What do you think are the best and worst things about the magazine?

Best \_\_\_\_\_

Worst \_\_\_\_\_

How much of the magazine do you usually read – all  some  a little  none

How long do you keep a copy of the magazine? \_\_\_\_\_

How many people in your household read it? \_\_\_\_\_

## Would you like us to include more information about the following:

- Community news  Council news and announcements  Tourism/attraction news   
Events listings  Councillors' activities  Council services  Advice for residents   
Special/ in-depth features and case studies  Residents' questions and views   
Partner news (e.g. KCC, Kent Police, KFRS)  Council/useful contact details

## How would you most prefer to receive this magazine in future?

- A paper copy through my door  By emailing me directly  To read it on the SBC website

## We currently publish four editions of Inside Swale each year. Is this:

- Too many  about right  too few

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email/telephone \_\_\_\_\_



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

**Inside Swale** has a wonderful prize of a night for two people spent in the Shepherd's Hut on Elmley Marsh (See page 4). Gareth and Georgina who run the facility have donated the prize to be taken anytime from October on – *it's so popular it is booked out all Summer!* The prize will be chosen at random from surveys returned by 15 August.

Please post back for your chance to win, to:

**Communications Team, Swale Borough Council,  
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne ME10 3HT**



## Opening of improved High Dependency Unit (HDU) for special care babies



Following a hugely successful fundraising campaign, the Oliver Fisher Neonatal Unit at Medway Maritime Hospital is delighted to open its newly-enhanced high dependency nursery for sick babies.

Work was carried out in early March to update and replace essential equipment and facilities within the Unit, such as electrics and flooring. This was partly funded from the 'Hippo Appeal' last year, which raised £100,000, thanks to the generosity of supporters and the local community.

The upgraded nursery, which cares for up to eight babies at a time, was officially opened on Tuesday 19 May. Mayor of Medway, Cllr Barry Kemp, cut the ribbon, watched by guests, staff, and supporters of the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust (OFSCBT), which led the fundraising campaign. Cllr Kemp said: "It is a huge privilege to be celebrating one of the real success stories of Medway. It is great to see the work of the dedicated staff who make such an impact on people's lives."

Dr Aung Soe, Specialty Lead for Children and Consultant Neonatologist, said: "Before the work was carried out, we were unable to accommodate our full capacity within the HDU. But now with new equipment and technology, we have a purpose-built, fully equipped, state of the art HDU. The money raised by the charity has allowed us to purchase up-to-date equipment and furnishing to provide the highest standard of care to the eight babies and their families."

In total, the Oliver Fisher Neonatal Unit has 36 cot spaces across four nurseries - Intensive Care, High Dependency, Special Care, and Transitional Care – and looks after more than 1,000 sick and premature babies a year.

Dr Soe, also Chair of the OFSCBT, added: "We would like to extend our gratitude to all the fundraisers that helped us achieve our goal, and would like to assure them that due to their continued support of the Trust, we are able to provide the best care we possibly can to our tiny, sick patients."

The Oliver Fisher Unit, which is 30 years old this year, cares for babies from 23 weeks gestation.

Chairman of the Medway NHS Foundation Trust Shena Winning said: "A huge thank you must go to the Oliver Fisher Special Care Baby Trust for raising the money for this refurbishment and supporting us in the development of a genuine, state of the art special care baby unit. The Oliver Fisher Unit is a true exemplar in our organisation, and I'd like to say thank you to all of the staff here for their commitment and hard work."

# Building for the future



If you have been to the hospital recently you may have noticed that there is construction work happening in and around the Emergency Department (ED).

The Trust is investing £13.4million to extend the Department over the coming months to provide patients with an ED that is fit for purpose and can cope with the challenges of 100,000 patients per year. The current Department was designed to cope

with just 40,000 patients, and requires changes to the environment to achieve consistently high quality emergency care.

The first phase of the emergency development work has been completed with the opening of the Paediatric ED which is now fully operational 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and is already having a big impact on the way in which younger patients are treated. It has its own entrance, new consultation and treatment rooms, nine dedicated children's nurses, a senior matron, and a paediatric consultant. The new layout provides complete separation from adult patients and gives the youngsters more privacy and dignity.

The next phase of the planned investment to modernise and improve the ED began in March 2015 and will transform the main reception and Minor Injuries Unit. Work is due to be completed in early 2016 and will provide:

- A new walk-in entrance to the ED, with a modern and spacious reception area
- Seven new minor injury treatment rooms, including one specifically for eye injuries and a plaster room
- Two new 'triage' bays
- A waiting room just for minor injury patients, to create a calmer and more welcoming environment away from the main emergency waiting area
- Additional functional areas including utility rooms, toilets, stores, and offices

Further work to improve the ED Majors and Resus areas will begin in early 2016 and will provide enhanced facilities for patients with, along increased capacity.



## Praise for the Paediatric Emergency Department:

"This was our first visit and I can't speak highly enough of the staff and facilities. They made a very stressful time much more bearable."

"Could not have had better treatment, no complaint of any of the staff, facilities or treatment. Even the wait was reasonable. Thank you and well done to you all."

"The Children's ED is the best thing ever to happen at Medway Hospital, it keeps adults separate so children don't have to see things they should not. The staff are fantastic, the care excellent and the speed in which we were dealt with was really good."



# Home Care Services

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The type of support we can offer you:

- Personal care
- Companionship and someone to talk to
- Assistance with your medication
- Preparation of your meals
- Care throughout the night-time
- Domestic and cleaning services
- Accompanied visits to appointments
- Days out and leisure visits
- Respite care for the people who look after you
- Dog walking and pet care

Become a part of the team:

We are looking for friendly, approachable and dedicated carers to join Scott Care. If you would like to join the team call **01795 508860** or e-mail [sittingbourne@scottcare.co.uk](mailto:sittingbourne@scottcare.co.uk)

Visit [www.scottcare.co.uk](http://www.scottcare.co.uk) to find out more about our services.



We are a Gold Provider for Medway Council and a Contracted Provider for Kent County Council

t. **01795 508860** [www.scottcare.co.uk](http://www.scottcare.co.uk)

On behalf of



**Medway**  
COUNCIL  
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