

Summer 2017

inside Swale

Keeping you informed about your council services

In this issue

Things to do this summer

Artisan market success

Beside Swale's seaside

Reader survey – enter to win £100 M&S voucher



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Making Swale a better place

HOLIDAY HEROES

Summer holiday activities!

24th July - 1st Sept

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- Nerf Wars
- Circus Skills
- Joey the Clown
- Roller Disco
- Inflatables
- Cheese Box Photo Booth
- On Target Multi Sports



Swallows Leisure Centre

- Aqua Challenge - Book online
- Mobile Planetarium
- First Aid Workshop
- Waves & Flume
- Rugby, Football, Dance & Cricket Camp



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For full details of all activities available:
www.swaleleisure.com

SWALE
COMMUNITY LEISURE

Sheppey Leisure Complex
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Kent, ME12 1HH
Swimming Pool: **01796 668652**

Swallows Leisure Centre
Central Avenue, Sittingbourne,
Kent, ME10 4NT
Tel: **01795 420420**



@SwiminSwale
/SwaleLeisureCentres

*Pay & Display system - up to 2 hours car parking is refunded on admission by presenting your parking ticket refund voucher counterpart.

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Cover photo: Faversham Nautical Festival. This year's festival takes place on 22-23 July. Image courtesy of the Faversham Creek Trust.

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*Andrew Bowles, Leader,
Swale Borough Council*

Welcome to the Summer issue of Inside Swale.

As the weather hots up, this is the best time of year to get out and about and enjoy your area. There's so much to see and do in our beautiful borough – see pages 6-11 for some great ideas on how to enjoy your summer in Swale.

I'm delighted to see this issue so full of news and developments from across the borough. The Spirit of Sittingbourne project is making progress, and much is being done to upgrade parks and leisure facilities for all to enjoy.

There are also major highways improvements coming to Swale, and we want to make sure residents and the local business community can make their voices heard on the plans. See page 15 for further details.

Many of our young people are making their own plans for the future at this time of year. As the council prepares to welcome another group of apprentices, we're encouraging young people and businesses alike to consider how apprenticeships can work for them. See page 19 for more.

Finally, I hope that our many local community organisations will turn to page 22 to read about our re-opened grants schemes. If you have a plan for a project supporting Swale residents, our grants could help you make it a reality.

Whatever your plans for the season, we hope you have a wonderful summer.



Meet your new Mayor



Cllr Colin Prescott (left) has taken over as Swale's Mayor for the coming civic year. He succeeds Cllr Lesley Ingham, whose term ended in May.

Swale selects a new mayor from among its councillors every year, marking the occasion with a Mayor Making ceremony, which this year took place on 16 May.

Following the ceremony, Cllr Prescott said: "It is a great honour to take on this role, and I look forward to representing our council and promoting our borough at events throughout the year."

The Mayor's charities for the year will be Hospital Radio Swale and local branches of the Parkinson's UK support

group network. Cllr Prescott's tenure will take as its theme 'Produced in Swale', promoting local food and drink and supporting Swale's farmers.

The Mayor lives in Graveney with his wife of more than 50 years, Pamela, the new Mayoress. Following a successful career in banking, the Mayor returned to Kent from Oxfordshire in 1991 and was elected to represent East Downs Ward in 1992. He was Mayor of Swale for the civic year 2004-2005.

A keen table tennis player, the Mayor is a longstanding member of Swale Lions Club, as well as a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman with the Plaisterers' Livery Company.

Cllr Samuel Koffie-Williams (right) will serve as Deputy Mayor for this civic year.

Outgoing mayor Cllr Ingham, said: "It has been a huge privilege to serve as Swale's mayor and attend so many wonderful local events.

"One thing I shall never forget is my visit to the Menin Gate to mark Armistice Day. It was a truly humbling and emotional experience and will stay with me forever."



Keeping you informed

Want to stay up-to-date with local developments and Swale council services?

We're trialling a new email service for residents which delivers monthly news bulletins straight to your inbox.

To sign up to our monthly email newsletters, visit www.swale.gov.uk and click on the **Stay Connected** tab.



Faversham says yes



Faversham voters approved the Faversham Creek Neighbourhood Plan in May's referendum: 88% voted in favour of the plan and 12% voted against.

The 'yes' vote means Swale council is on the verge of releasing £200,000 to help with the costs of building a new swing bridge and sluice gates. Further funding will come from Kent County Council, Faversham Town Council and money raised by the community through the Faversham Creek Trust.

Cllr Mike Cosgrove, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "We're pleased to have seen such a clear result in the referendum, the first of its kind in our borough.

"This has been a long process, but now we have a community-approved blueprint in place to help us support the creek's regeneration."

Find out more about the plan on our website here www.swale.gov.uk/neighbourhood-planning

Students mark armistice centenary with music

A choral society is challenging Sittingbourne students to create original music to mark the centenary of the end of World War I in 2018.

Sittingbourne Orpheus Choral Society have organised the competition as part of the lead-up to their Armistice Centenary concert next November.

Participating students will compose a piece of music linking to the concert's theme, taking inspiration from the poetry of the period.

The winning piece will be performed at the armistice centenary concert. For details, visit www.socs.org.uk

Bowater Memorial plaque finds new home



A plaque commemorating the 91 staff of the old Bowater Mill who died in World War II has found a permanent home

at Holy Trinity Church in Milton Regis.

The Bishop of Dover, the Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, blessed the plaque at a special unveiling service.

The plaque was saved from the former Kemsley Arms pub in 2015, and until recently was on display at Swale House.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, said: "It's so important to honour these local people and their loss.

"We're very happy to see the plaque installed in the church so that the victims' lives can continue to be commemorated."

Gearing up for Hop Festival

Preparations for Faversham Hop Festival are well under way. Now in its 28th year, the free event will take place over the weekend of 2-3 September.

The internationally renowned festival features live music on stages across Faversham and in many of the town's pubs.

Food, drink and craft stalls, a funfair and Morris dancers will all compete to capture festivalgoers' attention. There'll also be exhibitions on Faversham's hop heritage, which extends back over 800 years.

One of the largest free street festivals in the south east, the event is largely run by volunteers and supported by Swale council and local and national businesses, including Faversham brewer Shepherd Neame.

To allow more people to access and enjoy the festival, this year organisers are setting up a special car park at the Abbey School on the A2.

For more information about these arrangements, volunteering and the festival line-up, visit

www.favershamhopfestival.org



Turn back the clock for family fun



Wheels of Time, a county-wide scheme to get kids excited about local heritage, has expanded to include even more attractions in Swale.

The initiative now covers 25 museums and heritage sites across Kent, 10 of which are in Swale – on the Isle of Sheppey, in Sittingbourne and in Faversham – offering visitors a fascinating insight into the borough's history.

Children aged 5-11 are given a different badge at each participating attraction, so families are encouraged to visit as many as possible to build up their collections!

Find out more and see the full list of sites at www.wheelsofetime.uk

SITTINGBOURNE ARTISAN MARKET

Making a mark with makers' market

Sittingbourne's artisan market is up and running, selling handmade crafts, gifts and local produce.

Running on the second Saturday of every month from March to December, the market is a great way to discover exciting products and new local traders, with more stalls lining the high street each month.

Having been set up by Swale council last November, the popular market is now managed by the Market Co-operative.



Cllr Mike Cosgrove, cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The market's success has shown that there is a genuine appetite for innovation in Sittingbourne, and offers a new way for shoppers to experience Sittingbourne High Street.

"We're looking forward to working closely with the Market Co-operative to build on this success in the future."

The next phase in the market's development is an appeal for teenage traders to take a stall and boost their entrepreneurial skills.

Plans are also afoot for an additional series of themed markets on the fourth Saturday of every month. Possible themes for the new markets include street food, vintage, antiques and more.

The council are keen to hear residents' ideas for themes, too: contact Jill Read with your suggestion by emailing jillread@swale.gov.uk or calling **01795 417592**.

To register for a stall at the artisan market, email the Market Co-operative: sheerness.market@gmail.com

Upcoming Markets

8 July
12 August
9 September
14 October
11 November
9 December

What's on in Swale

Saturday 1, 8 and 15 July Faversham Open House 2017



Organised by the Faversham Society, Open House is your annual opportunity to gain special access to properties of considerable historical and architectural interest, many not usually open to the public.

The scheme offers a unique insight into Faversham's built environment and heritage. Around 30 properties will be opening their doors and entry to all properties is by handbook.

Handbooks are on sale at the Visitor Information Centre, Preston Street, Faversham; alternatively, order yours by calling **01795 534542**.

www.favershamsociety.org

Sunday 2 July Railway Open Day



Visit the Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway open day and enjoy a display of classic, vintage and veteran vehicles while you explore the engine shed, see a range of locomotives and watch a water-pumping beam engine in action.

Most importantly, the ticket price covers unlimited train rides (numbers permitting). Tea shop and picnic area available.

www.bwlr.co.uk

Friday 7 July Hamlet at Belmont House



The Changeling Theatre Company will be returning to Belmont this summer to stage an open air production of William Shakespeare's Hamlet.

Come rain or shine, the show will go on – so attendees are encouraged to bring brollies!

www.belmont-house.org

Saturday 15 July Minster Village Fayre

Enjoy all the fun and community spirit of the Minster Village Fayre, offering a host of traditional stalls, games, entertainment and refreshments.

Entry to the fayre is free, but for a small fee you can also visit the Minster

Feature

Gatehouse museum and explore its diverse collections.

www.minstergatehouse.co.uk

Sunday 16 July Brogdale Cherry Fair



Celebrate over 400 varieties of Cherry at Brogdale with entertainment, live music, local producers and a display of cherries like

you have never seen before! The Cherry Fair will be overflowing with juicy cherry varieties picked straight from the orchards at Brogdale.

You can also take an orchard tour with knowledgeable guides, enjoy live music, craft and face painting. Watch talks and demonstrations, pig racing or test yourself at the cherry pie eating competition.

www.brogdalecollections.org

Saturday 5 – Sunday 6 August Sheppey Pirates Weekend



Barton's Point Coastal Park will once more resound with the cries of the fearsome Sheppey Pirates!

Excitement over the weekend will include an open-air cinema, funfair rides, live music, an enormous water bomb fight and an explosive battle re-enactment.

Camping is available but advance booking is recommended.

www.facebook.com/SheppeyPirates

Saturday 19 August Art in the Park



This free event, at Milton Creek Country Park, is a celebration of the rich diversity of art and culture in Swale, and this year has a carnival theme.

Featuring fire eaters, dancers and acrobats as well as stalls, live music and creative workshops, there'll be plenty to keep the whole family entertained.

The Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway will be running a special park and ride service from Sittingbourne Viaduct Station to the park, so visitors can arrive in style.

www.miltoncreek.co.uk

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found at www.visit-swale.gov.uk

Visit Swale is a great place to advertise events and attractions, and can help you reach thousands of people – locally and from further afield – for free. We also publish as many listings as we can in this magazine.

Contact us by emailing:

tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk

or follow us on social media:

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

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

Beside Swale's seaside

Sheppey's beaches are ready to welcome your family for another glorious summer of seaside fun.

Quality flagged up

All of Sheppey's bathing beaches have once more won Seaside Awards, with Minster Leas and Sheerness winning Blue Flags.

The Seaside Award is given by Keep Britain Tidy to beaches that meet their highest standard of cleanliness. The Blue Flag scheme measures a range of factors, including cleanliness, water quality and facilities.

These prestigious awards are signs of our beaches' quality, and we're delighted to be able to fly them again this year: all thanks to the hard work of our dedicated seafront team. Find out more at:

www.swale.gov.uk/blue-flag-award

Beach huts

Construction has now finished on our second beach hut scheme for Sheppey, for those who want a more permanent base by the beach.

The installation of the 20 huts at Leysdown follows the success of a similar scheme in Minster-on-Sea, and the new huts will soon be brightly painted and in use by their new owners and tenants.

While these huts have all already been sold or let, you can add your name to our waiting list for future schemes at:

www.swale.gov.uk/beach-huts



Get up and go

Swale's beaches aren't just places for relaxation... they can also be a great place to get active and keep fit.

Exercising always seems more enjoyable with a beautiful view, so why not make the most of our beaches for your workout sessions? Take a run along the newly resurfaced Minster Leas promenade, or, if you're not sure where to start, Swale Tri Club might be able to help: they run sporting events for all abilities, including open water swimming sessions.

Find out more at:

www.swaletricclub.co.uk

Looking for more ways to get active?

Check out the Active Swale website:

www.activeswale.co.uk

Safe and sound

We've renewed a contract with the RNLI to keep bathers safe on Leysdown, Minster Leas and Sheerness bathing beaches for another five years.

Lifeguards will be on Sheerness and Leysdown beaches every weekend and bank holiday in term time, moving to a seven-day service at all three locations at the start of the school holidays.

They'll be on hand until 3 September to make sure beachgoers can enjoy our beautiful seaside safely.

Top beach safety tips from the RNLI

- Track the tides. It's easier than you think to get cut off as the tide creeps in: check tide tables (or use a tides app) and stay aware of your surroundings
- Be safe in the sun. Remember your sunscreen, shades and hat – and take special care of children's more sensitive skin
- Follow the flags. Flags and signs on beaches are posted for good reasons: never enter the water when a red flag is flying

Spirit of Sittingbourne takes off

With the old Princes Street depot demolished, work has begun on the first major construction project of Sittingbourne's regeneration.

The big box retail units off Eurolink Way are underway, and will soon be ready to house high street retailers such as Home Bargains.

While the stores are being constructed, works are taking place to connect utilities and prepare Sittingbourne's road network for all of the planned developments.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, said: "We're delighted to see ground broken on the Spirit of Sittingbourne project and appreciate residents' patience as these vital highway works are carried out.

"This is a big step towards making our vision for an exciting new Sittingbourne town centre a reality."

With the multi-storey car park and the leisure quarter coming soon, it won't be long before big changes are visible across the town centre.

Stay up-to-date with project developments at www.spiritofsittingbourne.com



Plans progress for Faversham Rec revamp

The council's bid for £1.9m to improve Faversham Recreation Ground is moving forward.

Having successfully bid for £117,800 towards the development of the project plan, the council are now working on a full bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme to fund the improvement works.

The Recreation Ground – known locally as 'the Rec' – has been welcoming visitors for nearly 160 years. Features of its original layout, including the Grade II listed gardener's lodge and the base of the temperance fountain, endure to this day.

While the Rec is still widely used by families, dog walkers and sports clubs, it is in need of a thorough overhaul to ensure it remains an accessible haven for local residents. The development plans include extensive landscaping and planting work as well as a café, new toilets, resurfacing work and an updated children's play area.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: "We know how much local people value this historic park and want to seriously invest in its future.

"We're excited to share our plans for the development and to give this vital local resource a new lease of life."

The second round bid will be submitted early next year, and, if successful, work should begin in the autumn of 2018.



Feature

Park life | Our green spaces team has been hard at work upgrading the borough's play areas and leisure facilities.



Musical play panels were installed in Sittingbourne's King George V playing field in March, with Sheerness skate ramp getting a new fibreglass skin the following month.

The revamped Sheerness paddling pool is now open, with new equipment and improved landscaping keeping the popular site clean and accessible for all.

New leisure facilities in Thistle Hill, Minster have also recently opened. Designed in consultation with residents, a pirate-themed play area and a trim trail for health-conscious locals offer something for everyone.



More improvement works, including major additions to Iwade Nature Park, are planned for the coming months. Find your nearest leisure facilities here: www.swale.gov.uk/leisure-parks



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 provides a range of services offering good quality, consistent care, impartial or confidential support to help people remain safe and independent in their own homes.

- Friendship and fun
- Befriending
- Information, Advice and Advocacy. Our I + A service is quality assured. Age UK Faversham and Sittingbourne successfully completed Age UK's Information and Advice Quality Programme in November 2015
- Freshly cooked lunches delivered to you
- Day care (including transport)
- Specialist dementia support and COGs club
- Carer support for those looking after people living with dementia
- Care Navigator – to help you by talking through any problems/issues you might have and to support you to find solutions and access services if needed
- Personal care in your home – we are CQC registered
- Bathing at home or in our centres
- Chiropody and foot care
- Independent Living Service – help with housework, shopping, trips out etc
- Our Living Well Scheme provides support for health and social needs

Are you are considering a career in care? We are always recruiting. Contact our Domiciliary Team for more information' on 01795 532766

What our clients say about us:

"It feels that you have filled a massive void in my life. I have made lots of friends and feel happy and comfortable now with what life has to offer. I don't know what I would have done without their support".

"I am so glad that you come to pick me up otherwise I would be sat here on my own all day".

"I wouldn't have coped without this service. I don't know what I would have done".

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

Faversham
Tel: 01795 532766
Charity No. 1152234

Sittingbourne
Tel: 01795 477520
www.ageuk.org.uk/favershamandsittingbourne

Teynham
Tel: 01795 521052

Residents' views sought on Junction 5 upgrade



This autumn, the people of Swale will have their say on a range of plans for the redesign of junction 5 of the M2.

Following intensive lobbying from Swale council and others, in 2015 central government allocated £100m to fund the project.

Highways England, the agency responsible for upgrading the junction, are now working to put together a range of options for the redesign. They will open these up to public consultation in the autumn of this year, with construction scheduled to start in 2020.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of Swale council, said: “After years of congestion affecting residents and businesses alike, and with one of the worst accident records on the entire road network, these changes can’t come soon enough.

“We want to ensure that the wishes of local people are considered as decisions are taken about the future of this vital junction.”

The need for urgent improvements to the M2 has been underlined by the recent announcement of the preferred route for the Lower Thames Crossing, which will encourage more drivers to use the A2/M2 corridor.

Swale council are working with Highways England to make the consultation as accessible as possible, giving local residents and businesses a chance to see and comment on the plans directly.

We will be sharing details of the consultation in the coming months on www.swale.gov.uk and www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk

Lower Road update

Work to ease congestion on the Isle of Sheppey is planned to start as soon as possible, following the release of funding.

The new scheme, designed to improve the flow of traffic at the junction between the Lower Road and Barton Hill Drive, received £1.26m of funds from the South East Local Economic Partnership earlier this year.

A proposed new roundabout will ease traffic jam frustration for local residents, while helping to open up the island to visitors and businesses alike.

Your councillors

▶ Conservative ▶ Independent

▶ Labour ▶ UKIP

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New village hall for Great Easthall



Lakeview Village Hall, on the edge of the Great Easthall estate, will soon be open for community events and private functions.

The council managed the hall's construction, using money set aside from the housing development.

We transferred the hall's lease to the Lakeview Village Hall Trust last month, and they are now gearing up for a grand opening event on 8 July.

Andy McGowan, chair of the charity's trustees, said: "This has been a long journey and there has been a lot of work involved by the volunteers – we are excited to be at this stage."

Offering flexible spaces for hire, the venue can cater for a wide range of functions as well as community events.

For details of the opening event and venue hire information, visit www.lakeviewvillagehall.org.uk

Kent Community Health **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

HOW ARE you?

If you want to make some changes in your life, the NHS can help.

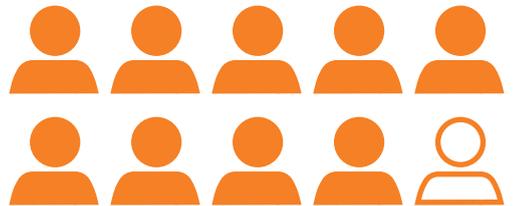
Our local services can help you to feel more confident and motivated to quit smoking, eat healthily or be more active!

We can give you all the advice and support you need to get you on your way to a healthier future.

Call free on 0300 123 1220 or visit www.kenthealthandwellbeing.nhs.uk.

BECAUSE THERE'S ONLY **ONE YOU**

Did you know?



90% of apprentices stay in employment

Apprenticeships work, for employers and learners

#GetInGoFar
www.getingofar.gov.uk

 **Swale**
means business
www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk

Earn while you learn

If you're thinking about your next steps after school or college, why not consider an apprenticeship? You can earn a wage while you work towards a nationally-recognised qualification, and get a foot on the career ladder.

Swale council recruits up to 10 apprentices every year, with roles available in teams across the organisation. The huge range of services we offer means our apprenticeships are diverse, too: you could promote Swale's voluntary sector, work with our green spaces ranger to keep our borough beautiful or help vulnerable local residents get the support they need.

An apprenticeship can also unlock a range of future options. Following their apprenticeship year, several apprentices have taken up full-time roles with Swale council; others have found positions in the private sector or gone on to study at university.

Bethany Stephenson, pictured, started her apprenticeship in the council's Customer Services department last September. "The apprenticeship has got me used to the working world and given me work experience for the future," she said. "Dealing with customers has made me feel a lot more confident.

"I would recommend an apprenticeship because, if you're not quite sure what you want to do in the future, it's a good way to start and will widen your options for future careers."

Employers benefit from apprenticeships too: they allow businesses to take on motivated, affordable staff, inject enthusiasm and new ideas into their business practices and develop the talent pool in their sector.

For advice and guidance on employing an apprentice, as well as information about available grants, visit:

www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk
or call **01795 417398**.



Apprenticeship positions with Swale council are currently being advertised at: www.swale.gov.uk/jobs
Closing date 21 July, 2017.

Take your business to the next level



Swale Means Business provide advice and guidance to local businesses at all stages of development.

Their programme of workshops and support can help you achieve your business goals.



Bring down your bills

Does your small business need to cut down on energy costs? An upcoming workshop on the Green Business Fund could help.

The fund provides energy assessments, training and procurement support, as well as capital grants of up to £10,000 towards energy-saving equipment.

Follow **@SwaleMeans** on Twitter for the latest workshop news.

Have your say

Swale's transport infrastructure is of vital importance to its business community, so make sure your voice is heard on plans to improve Junction 5 on the M2.

As part of wider consultation efforts, a

special event is being planned for local businesses: it's your chance to feed back to Highways England on proposals for redesigning the junction.

Like **Swale Means Business** on Facebook for event updates.

Win more work

Bidding for government contracts can seem daunting, but procurement can offer opportunities for companies of all sizes.

Following a pilot event in May, further procurement workshops for local businesses are planned for later this year. Attendees will get advice on bidding for work with the council and learn more about the tendering process.

Email **procurement@swale.gov.uk** to find out more or register your interest.

Stay informed about all these events, and more visit:
www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk/news-events

Support to stay in your own home

Are you worried about an elderly relative falling at home?
Or are you concerned about your own safety?

Swale council's home improvement agency, Staying Put, offers free home assessments to vulnerable local residents, helping to spot any issues that could affect someone's ability to live independently.

The assessments identify adaptations that can help residents stay safe in their homes, such as grab rails in the bathroom or a handrail to help manage the stairs. Staying Put can also arrange for their professional handyman to carry out many small jobs at low rates.

Where more extensive adaptations are required, the service can support you to apply to Swale council's Disabled Facilities grant scheme, helping to pay for the work.

To arrange a free home assessment for yourself or an older relative, please email stayingputall@swale.gov.uk or call **01795 417131** to speak to the team.



Paperless billing is here

Did you know that you can now receive your council tax bill by email? Sign up to our new e-billing service to get all your future council tax bills delivered straight to your inbox.

Paperless billing is convenient, saves council resources and is better for the environment. What's more, you can opt out of the service at any time.

To sign up for the e-billing service, email the council tax team, giving your name, address and, if you know it, your account number: ctax@swale.gov.uk

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www.21stcenturyhearing.com

Get a boost for your community project



Are you looking for funding for a community project in Swale? Swale council's localism grant schemes have re-opened, and could help you bring your vision to life.

In 2016/17, we awarded **249** localism grants, distributing a total of more than **£150,000** to local organisations. Available to a wide range of voluntary and community groups, our grant schemes have simple application processes, helping widen access to support.

There are five categories of grants available: culture, heritage, sport and physical activity, WWI centenary and member grants. Visit www.swale.gov.uk/localism-grants to find out more and apply.

How our grants can help

The Fenner Frost Foundation helps people with learning disabilities get the skills they need to access paid employment. They run their training programme from their vinyl record shop on Sittingbourne High Street, where students gain invaluable work experience.

Liz Hymus and Alison Fenner-Loftus, the charity's founders, told us about their experience of applying for a localism grant.

"We applied for £200 from the member grants scheme. It appealed to us as the application form was straightforward and wasn't too long!



"The process was easy. We returned our form and got a decision back quickly.

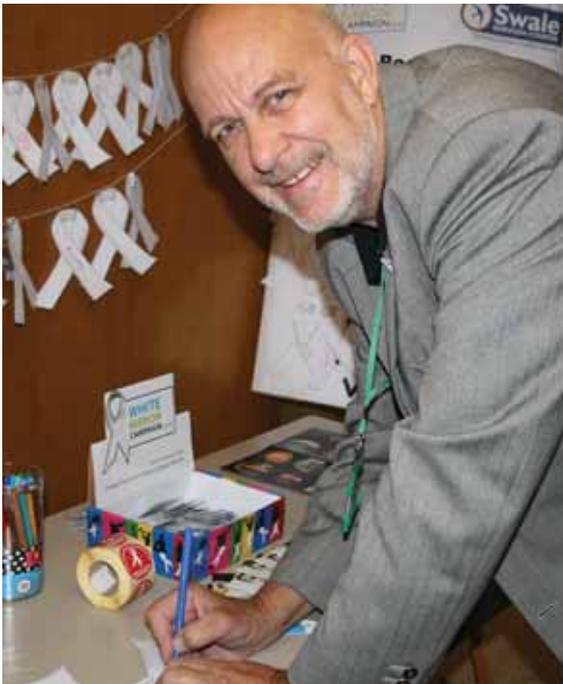
"We'd definitely encourage others to apply: not only for the money, but also to raise awareness of your project.

"We put the grant towards a new computer, which our students use to research and accurately price our stock, as well as to access online courses. We wouldn't be able to run our project without this resource."



Wearing the White Ribbon with pride

Swale's Community Safety Partnership, which brings together council staff, local police and specialist agencies to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, has achieved White Ribbon status: a marker of our commitment to tackling domestic violence.



Cllr Alan Horton signs up to the campaign

The White Ribbon campaign engages men in efforts to end male violence against women. By wearing a white ribbon, men promise to never commit, condone or remain silent about such violence.

At an event in May, male staff at Swale council signed up to the campaign's goals. Cllr Alan Horton, cabinet member for safer families and communities and one of the council's ambassadors for the campaign, said: "It's vital that men speak out and condemn violence against women.

"We're proud to support this campaign and to share its message as widely as we can."

Swale council are working with partners to bring the campaign to local residents. Earlier this month we supported specialist

charity SATEDA (Swale Action To End Domestic Abuse) to deliver a family fun day, the Big Event, in Sheerness.

The event aimed to raise residents' awareness of domestic violence, the White Ribbon campaign and support services available in Swale. Further events are planned for later in the year.

If you need advice or support, visit www.sateda.org or call **01795 417251**. Find out more about the White Ribbon campaign and sign up to become an ambassador at www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk

Blooming marvellous



It's that time of year again: keen-eyed judges will be out and about across Swale over the coming weeks to look for the very best front gardens in the borough.

The competition is open to everyone: there's no need to apply, but only the most gorgeous gardens will make the grade! To be in with a chance of winning, your front garden needs to look its best from 26 June-14 July in Faversham or 17 July-4 August in Sittingbourne.

Swale in Bloom works with local groups and communities to develop their gardening skills and participate in competitions. Jointly managed by Swale council and our grounds maintenance contractor, Blenwood, they also support community clean-ups, wildlife awareness and gardening in schools.

Displays and parks across the borough are also being prepared for the hotly-contested South & South East in Bloom competition. Community groups, businesses and residents alike are gearing up for judging, which will take place in Sittingbourne on 6 July and Faversham on 7 July.

Find out more about Swale in Bloom at

www.swaleinbloom.co.uk

Malcolm's top tips!

Tips for success from Malcolm Moore, chair of Sittingbourne in Bloom:

- Keep up the weeding and dead-heading and avoid too much bare soil
- Go for matching colours if you can – try not to make the display look too garish
- Look out for bargain plants in the supermarkets and save yourself pounds!

Give your garden room to bloom



Our garden waste recycling service could take some of the hard work out of creating an award-winning garden.

The service is convenient and easy to use; and, for £35 per year, puts an end to trips to the tip.

Your bin will be emptied every two weeks, so over a year you'll pay just £1.35 per collection. We'll convert your garden waste into compost, which is then used to enrich local farmland.

To find out more, or to order your brown bin, visit www.swale.gov.uk/brown-bin-garden-waste or call **01795 417888**



Volunteers help keep Swale tidy

Swale residents leapt into action to support the recent Great British Spring Clean campaign, organising 29 events across the borough.

Volunteers filled more than 440 bags with tons of carelessly discarded rubbish.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said: “We’re so grateful to Swale’s spring clean volunteers, and were proud to provide equipment and support to facilitate their efforts.

“But in an ideal world, campaigns like this wouldn’t need to exist. Sadly, some people still don’t understand how inconsiderate, antisocial and damaging to the environment it is to drop litter.”

We supported the campaign as part of our ongoing efforts to curb littering in Swale, including issuing more fixed penalty notices and working with local schools.

Want to organise your own clean-up? Email environmentalprojects@swale.gov.uk or call **01795 417133** to find out how we can help.

Don’t let your efforts go to waste

Recycling your rubbish correctly isn’t just good for the environment: it saves council taxpayers’ money, too.

Last year, an additional £130,000 had to be spent when blue bins were found to contain non-recyclable waste. That’s money that could be better spent on a whole range of council services.



The biggest causes of blue bin contamination are black sacks, food waste and textiles.

So what can you do to make sure you’re getting your recycling right?

- Empty food and drink containers before you recycle them
- Recycle food waste in your silver caddy
- No black sacks please! Put all your recyclables into the blue bin loose
- Put unwanted textiles in a carrier bag next to your blue bin for recycling
- Double-check your bin for rogue non-recyclables before you put it out

For more detailed information on what should go in which bin, visit www.swale.gov.uk/bins-recycling – and look out for our recycling Q&As on social media.

Recycling and refuse collection dates

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

 Blue Wheelie Bin Collection week

 Green Wheelie Bin Collection week

Don't forget, food waste recycling collections are collected weekly with both bins.

Week 1 collections

June 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Week 2 collections

June 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
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September 2017						
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October 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

November 2017						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

In the event of inclement weather, please leave your recycling and waste out on your collection day and we will get to you as soon as we can. Daily updates will be on our website: www.swale.gov.uk



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**...MORE THAN
JUST A GYM!**

Top tips for a stress-free summer

Swat away pests

Don't let wasps, ants or any other pest ruin your summer!

Our specially selected contractors offer a great value service you can trust, for residential and commercial premises.

Call **01795 417338** or visit **www.swale.gov.uk/pest-control** to find out how we can help.

Barbecue better*

Planning a big barbecue? Follow these simple tips to make sure none of your guests lose their lunch:

- Keep your fridge cold: ideally it should stay under 5°C
- Defrost food in the fridge or microwave, not on your kitchen counter
- Barbecue burgers all the way through, with no pink in the middle!

*sunny weather not guaranteed

Stay safe

Open doors and windows can be tempting targets, so keep your house secure as the weather warms up.

Got holiday plans? Timer switches on lights can be a crime deterrent, making your home look occupied while you're away.

And remember: call **999** in an emergency or if an incident is in progress; for non-urgent issues, call **101**

Party... politely

Summer parties call for music, but your good time shouldn't ruin your neighbours' evening: tell them your party plans in advance and keep your sound system indoors.

If your neighbours aren't so thoughtful, you can call our out of hours team on **01795 417575** to report a noise issue on **Friday and Saturday nights** (9pm-1am).

Walk this way

Exploring Swale's countryside with your dog is even more fun in summer sunshine. Keep these tips in mind on your walks:

- Bring water and a bowl to help your pet beat the heat
- Protect your dog and our heritage: if an area is off-limits for dogs, there's always a good reason why
- Tidy up after your dog to help us keep Swale looking its best. Always bring bags with you!

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Your opinion matters

We're committed to keeping you informed about the services we provide, the work we do and the difference it makes.

We are constantly working to find new and improved ways of sharing information to meet your changing needs and preferences. We'd welcome your views on how we can provide a better service: simply fill in the survey below or online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/inside-swale-2017 and you will be entered into a draw to win £100 of Marks & Spencer vouchers!

Where do you get information about the work of the council and its services? (tick all that apply)

- Our website (www.swale.gov.uk)
- Our Facebook page (Swale Borough Council)
- Our Twitter feed (@SwaleCouncil)
- Our email bulletins
- This magazine
- Local newspapers
- Local radio
- Online media (e.g. Kent Online / BBC News)
- Social media
- Council offices or call centre
- Public meetings
- Direct contact with my councillor
- Local library

Other _____

How would you rate this magazine for:

(1 = Very poor, 2 = Poor, 3 = Average, 4 = Good, 5 = Very good)

- Useful information?
- Relevance to residents?
- Interesting stories?
- Design and layout?

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

Best _____

Worst _____

How much of the magazine do you usually read?

- All Most Some
- A little None

How long do you keep a copy of the magazine?

- One week One month
- Until next issue One year

How many people in your household read it?

- 1 2 3 4 5+

What would you like to see more of in the magazine? (tick all that apply)

- Community news
- Council news and announcements

- Council service updates
- Council/useful contact details
- Events listings
- Features and case studies
- Future projects and developments
- Partner news (e.g. KCC, Kent Police)
- Residents' questions answered
- Tourism/attraction news

How would you most like 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 issues of Inside Swale a year. Is this:

- Too many? About right?
- Not enough?

Name _____

Email address _____

Telephone number _____

One lucky winner will receive a prize of £100 in Marks & Spencer vouchers. The winning entry will be chosen at random from surveys returned by 31 July 2017.

To be in with a chance of winning, please include your name, telephone number and/or email address when completing the survey. You can do this online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/inside-swale-2017 or by filling in this page and posting it to:

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

Your data will be held by Swale Borough Council in accordance with the Data Protection Act for the purpose of entry to the prize draw only, and will not be used for any other purpose or shared with third parties. For further information, please email insideswale@swale.gov.uk



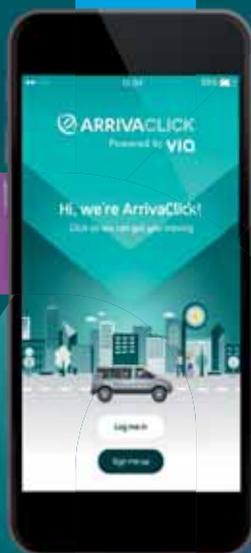
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