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Swale

Spring 2019

Keeping you informed about your council services

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what you need to know

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Volunteer Swale Awards 2019

RECYCLING & WASTE COLLECTION CALENDAR



Swale
BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Try our Newly Refurbished Gym & Studio at Sheppey today

10 DAY TRIAL

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Use 2 facilities in Swale for 10 days and experience everything our fitness memberships have to offer! Sign up today at www.swaleleisure.com/trial

Sheppey Leisure Complex
Off the Broadway, Sheerness,
Kent, ME12 1HH
Tel: **01795 668 061**

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

SWALE
COMMUNITY LEISURE

Let's start with
MORE FITNESS.

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Do you have difficulty in understanding this magazine? Do you need it in Braille, large print or on audio CD? For translations or interpretations contact us on **01795 417850** or csc@swale.gov.uk and we will do our best to help.

Cover photo: Valley of bluebells set in the Swale countryside.

Correction to the Winter Issue of Inside Swale: the cover photo was in fact Lynsted village in the snow. Thank you to all who spotted the error.

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*Andrew Bowles, Leader,
Swale Borough Council*

Welcome Welcome to the Spring issue of Inside Swale.

Spring can often bring a great deal of unpredictability; it can be beautiful sunshine with bluebells making an appearance one day, and snow or downpours of rain the next.

I think the constant change is one of the best parts about spring. It's not just the weather that we will notice changing; there's a great deal of change happening across Swale. Changes to Swallows Leisure Centre, Sheppey Pool and Sheppey Healthy Living Centre are now well underway, and you can see how they are progressing on page 10.

We've been working hard to upgrade play areas throughout the borough with a number of these completed in the spring. Turn to pages 12 and 13 to see just some of the changes to our play areas.

On pages 16 and 17 you can read about the latest developments in the Spirit of Sittingbourne project. This is an exciting year in the project as we will see the start of construction of Bourne Place.

We're getting involved with the Great British Spring Clean again this year to help clean up our borough of unsightly litter. We're keeping our fingers crossed that we don't have another Beast from the East put a damper on everyone's efforts this year. Information on how to get involved is on page 19.

As we head into the warmer months of spring and summer, we're encouraging everyone to do their bit in keeping our coastlines clean. On page 23 you can read about the Beauty of the Beach campaign with Southern Water to offer simple tips for a clean beach, making them an enjoyable place for everyone.

Enjoy your spring.



No excuse for abuse



Swale Borough Council is supporting a scheme from the National Private Hire Taxi Association to increase awareness and to help tackle physical and verbal abuse suffered by taxi drivers.

We are offering a “no excuse for abuse” sticker to every taxi driver, and urging passengers to treat drivers with respect.

Cameron Beart, deputy cabinet member responsible for licencing, said:

“Taxi drivers are an essential method of transportation within our area, and it’s vital they should be protected. Any abuse, be it physical, racial or verbal will not be tolerated and should be reported to the police. We encourage drivers to come forward.”

Taxi drivers can claim a free sticker by emailing the licensing team taxis@swale.gov.uk



Any abuse should be reported to the authorities immediately.



TiksPac in Swale marks two year anniversary

We are pleased to be continuing our partnership with the Swedish company TiksPac to offer free dog-waste bags in local parks.

Local businesses can advertise on the stations, helping to increase exposure to potential customers, and demonstrate their support for improving the local environment.

We originally introduced TiksPac stations two years ago, and there are now 30 positioned at popular dog-walking locations across the borough, with other sites in the pipeline.

Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, deputy cabinet member for environment and rural affairs said:

“Dog mess is unsightly and can be dangerous to young children. People have the right to walk on clean streets and paths.”

The partnership scheme won the Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative category at the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) Awards in 2017.



Local elections... what you need to know

The Borough, Parish and Town Council elections are fast approaching, taking place on Thursday 2 May. This includes the first elections for the new Sheerness Town Council. So that you are prepared and ready to vote, we have answered some of the most common questions that we get asked.

Am I eligible to register to vote?

You only need to register to vote if you have moved and not told us, but if you are unsure if you're already registered, please contact our customer services team – 01795 417850.

If you're not already on the electoral register, you can register to vote in elections and referendums if you are:

- 16 or older (although you can't vote until you are 18 years old);
- a British citizen;
- an Irish, eligible Commonwealth, or European Union citizen living in the UK.

How do I register to vote?

- The quickest and easiest way is to register to vote online: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

DON'T LOSE IT



- You will need your National Insurance number, which can be found on your National Insurance card or pay slips. You will also be asked for your date of birth.
- If you need help, or would prefer a form to be sent to you, you can contact our Electoral Services team electors@swale.gov.uk

When do I need to register to vote by?

To take part in the local elections, you need to be registered to vote by 12 April 2019, but we encourage you not to leave it to the last minute.

Where can I find out postal and proxy votes?

To find out about postal or proxy votes, visit

www.yourvotematters.co.uk/how-do-i-vote

The deadline for applying to vote by:

- Post (or change an existing arrangement) is 15 April by 5pm
- Proxy is 24 April by 5pm



Where is my local polling station?

The address of your local polling station will be included on your poll card.

How do I apply to be a councillor?

You can find out by visiting our website www.swale.gov.uk/be-a-councillor or contact us for further information.

Information is also available on www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Going green in Swale



Sandra Austen, Ian Arnell, Andrew Bowles - Leader, Swale Borough Council, Vikki Sedgwick and Martin Goodhew with their certificates

Swale has been recognised by the Kent Environment Champions Group at the Kent Environment Strategy Awards.

Staff from Swale Borough Council and volunteers were awarded for going that extra mile to deliver a positive outcome for the environment, health and economy of Kent last year. Ian Arnell, Belinda Lamb, Lynda Marshall and Vikki Sedgwick were all nominated and recognised for their efforts.

A number of projects from Swale were also given a nod, with Plastic Free Faversham, Green Grid Partnership, Orchard Community Energy and the Abbey Physic Garden all receiving awards for their continued commitment to Swale’s environment.

Blazing a Trail with apprentices in Swale



Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week 2019 is now upon us, running from 4-8 March. Now in its twelfth year, the week is a great opportunity to highlight the fantastic benefits an apprenticeship can offer school leavers, those looking to re-train or return to work and employers. The theme this year is “Blaze a trail” encouraging apprentices to blaze their own career trail and runs alongside the Government’s new campaign that was launched in January “Fire it up”. Companies employing apprentices say that their workforce retention is higher and their productivity increased.

Find out more about employing an apprentice at: www.swalemeansbusiness.co.uk, or call us on 01795 417398 to discuss.

Did you know

- More than 1,500 job roles in 170+ industries are covered by apprenticeships
- Apprenticeships are for anyone over the age of 16
- If your company’s payroll is under £3 million, the government will pay 90% of your apprentice’s training costs
- First-time employers of apprentices can get a grant of £1,000 towards employment cost (if their new recruits are aged 16-18 or meet certain criteria)



Leader of the pack

Our stray dog service was recognised for its high level of animal welfare standards at the RSPCA PawPrints Awards ceremony.

The RSPCA awarded the team the Platinum Footprint award, a special award that was created to mark the 10th anniversary of the awards. It was given to those organisations that have received the Gold Footprint for five consecutive years.

The award recognises organisations that have gone above and beyond their basic service requirements to ensure higher animal welfare standards, and those that demonstrate the importance of actively promoting schemes and services such as micro-chipping.



David Rutley MP - Minister for animal welfare, Cllr Nicholas Hampshire and Chris Wainright - Chief Executive RSPCA.

Cllr Nicholas Hampshire, deputy cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, collected the Platinum Footprint award on behalf of the service.

Cllr Hampshire said:

“It’s fantastic for the service to be recognised for their diligent work to reunite stray dogs and their owners.

“This recognises the entire service – from the effectiveness of taking the initial call, the officer who retrieves a dog, the out-of-hours provision, and even the use of social media to reunite owners and pets.

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

Report stray dogs

To report a stray dog during normal office hours, the public should call **01795 417850** where arrangements will be made for the dog to be collected.

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

What's on in Swale

19th March – 4th April The story and music of Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Criterion



The 2019 Spring Show at the Criterion will pay tribute to the musical talents of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II who together were an influential, innovative and successful American musical theatre writing team.

This show will be a nostalgic trip down memory lane as we re-live some moments from these magical musicals, which have been delighting audiences for over 70 years.

For more information and to book, visit www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/criterion-music-hall

Saturday 23 March Queen II - The Ultimate Tribute to Queen at the Alexander Centre



Queen II are the Queen tribute that provide a breathtaking show at any venue! They have been touring Britain and

Europe captivating audiences with their nostalgic show!

Performing hits from every decade of

Queen's musical legacy - Queen II truly are the champions of tributes.

For more information and to book, visit www.thealexandercentre.com/whats-on

7th – 27th April Hanami Picnics at Brogdale Collections



Discover the traditional Japanese festival of the cherry blossom at Brogdale. Explore

the Japanese culture exhibition, sample Japanese food, have a go at origami and calligraphy, and try on a kimono. Enjoy a tour of the blossoming orchards and bring a picnic to have under the blossoms.

Hanami Picnic Experiences must be booked 48hrs in advance.

For more information and to book, visit www.brogdalecollections.org/product/hanami-picnic-tickets/

19th – 22nd April Easter at Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway



There is plenty to do at Sittingbourne's Steam Railway this Easter, with trains running on all four days. A quick return trip takes about an hour, but you can stay longer and visit

the award winning gardens, museum, Footplate Café and Railway Shop.

Feature

On Good Friday 19th April you can pot a plant at Kemsley Down to take home with you, or why not visit on Easter Sunday and take part in the Easter Egg Hunt.

For more information and fares, visit www.sklr.net/timetable-fares/special-events/easter/

18th – 19th May Faversham Transport Weekend



Faversham Transport Weekend takes place throughout the town centre all day on 18th and 19th May. There are bus tours, exhibiting buses and large vehicles along with a market and live music on the Saturday. Hundreds of classic cars and motorcycles will be

making an appearance on the Sunday as well as a funfair, live music, market stalls and other entertainment.

www.visit-swale.co.uk/events/faversham-transport-weekend

25th – 26th May Isle Fest



Enjoy some of the country's biggest and best tribute bands

this May bank holiday weekend. It will be a weekend like no other with a line-up of 8 tributes taking to the stage over the weekend. With full festival main stage, funfair rides and main attractions, face painters glitter tattoos a choice of food stalls, beer tents, craft and community stalls and a few surprises on the day.

For full details, ticket info, and T&C's please visit the website:

www.islefest.co.uk

Thursday 30 May Beastie Day at Brogdale



A full day of exploring Brogdale and discovering fantastic bugs & mini beasts.

Book your Live Bug Show time and spend the whole day exploring the orchards, discovering bugs and have lots of fun.

www.brogdalecollections.org/half-term-days/

All of these events, and many more things to do in Swale, can be found on the Visit Swale website:

www.visit-swale.co.uk

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

You can contact us with your listings by emailing tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk

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

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

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

Fresh new looks for leisure centres

Work at Swallows Leisure Centre, Sheppey Pool and Sheppey Healthy Living Centre are now well underway. The upgrades to the sites are part of a £2 million investment to make improvements and necessary repairs.

Both sites are getting a range of improvements, including new equipment and virtual spin studios, where you will be able to attend either an instructor led class, or 'drop-in and spin' to a pre-recorded workout session of your choosing.

Other upgrades include:

Swallows Leisure centre:

- New family fun zone, with enhanced soft play
- Clip and climb/augmented climbing wall
- Expanded gym, with 10 new stations on new mezzanine floor over café
- Healthy lifestyle toning suite for mobility/postoperative managed exercise

Sheppey Pool and Sheppey Healthy Living Centre:

- New healthy lifestyle and toning suite in the pool building
- Virtual spin studio
- Extended gym with equipment upgrades and new stations

Cllr Sarah Aldridge, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said "It's great to see work progress at the leisure centres. I'm particularly looking forward to seeing the Healthy Lifestyle gym in operation, which I hope will benefit all ages and will not only help improve mobility levels but also emotional wellbeing in a supportive environment."

Work at both sites is still ongoing but are due to fully reopen this spring.



Swallows Leisure Centre pool covered in scaffolding whilst the roof has repairs.



Above: Cllrs Sarah Aldridge and Andy Booth with Dave Harcourt of Swale Community Leisure inspect progress of the new gym at Sheppey leisure complex.

Below: the completed gym.





No excuse for poor parking on the school run



Our teams are taking action against inconsiderate and dangerous parking outside schools in Swale.

In October and November, Civil Enforcement Officers made 185 visits to schools and issued 39 Penalty Charge Notices to drivers parked dangerously and inconsiderately outside schools during drop off and pick times.

Cllr Alan Horton, cabinet member for housing and safer communities said “This is great news for people living in our borough – parking in restricted areas outside schools poses a risk to children, as well as being inconsiderate to local residents.”

Civil Enforcement Officers go green

APCOA Civil Enforcement Officers, working on behalf of Swale Borough Council, are now 100% green in delivering the service across Swale. Officers are actively using bicycles and fully electric patrol vehicles in addition to existing foot patrols.

Vehicle patrols cover more than 130,000 miles a year in total, meaning an average saving of over 29 tonnes of CO2.

Cllr Alan Horton said “Good air quality is also a priority for the council - making our parking enforcement teams 100% green shows we are doing our bit to reduce CO2 emissions in our area. Tackling these two issues head on is essential if we want to improve our communities.”



SCHOOL — KEEP — CLEAR

Play areas see major makeover

More parks and play areas around Swale are set to get a facelift in the coming months.

Rectory Play Area in Sittingbourne will have the top section refurbished with two new sets of swings, a new toddler play unit with slides, a roundabout and seesaw. Teenagers can enjoy a more challenging play unit. The whole of the top section will be surfaced and link up with the existing trim trail at the bottom of the play area.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs said “It’s important that children and teenagers have the chance to enjoy recreational time outside and away from their screens. The upgraded facilities at the Rectory Play Area in Sittingbourne will provide an inclusive environment and serve young families in Sittingbourne for years to come.”

The sandpit at the Beachfields Play Area in Sheerness is saying goodbye to the galleon ship, which has been at the site for 33 years. With an investment of £50,000, the site is going to get a major upgrade and the ship will be replaced with a brand new castle.



The proposed new castle at Beachfields Play Area

Feature

A new yellow wetpour safety surfacing to match the surrounding sand will provide access into the play area for wheelchairs for the very first time. Work on the site has now started and is due to be finished by Easter this year.

Faversham Pools play area has been completely refurbished with the assistance of Rotary Club of Faversham. Windermere play area has also seen investment to deliver a safe place for children to play.



The proposed Faversham Pool Play Area

Faversham Recreation Ground



LOTTERY FUNDED

Work on the £1.9 million heritage-led regeneration of Faversham Recreation Ground is set to start with a major refurbishment to the play area. New equipment was chosen following feedback received during consultation with residents, schools and interested groups.

The core elements of the works are planned to begin after the end of the football and rugby season in late April, and be completed by early September,

with the remaining works finished in November.

The scheme was given the green light in July 2018 when The Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund awarded more the £1.6m for the scheme that will restore many of the park's historic features, and improvements to facilities.

Let's talk council tax



*We are asking band D council tax payers to pay **9p** extra per week for our services.*

This means following the increase, a band D household will be asked to pay a total of £3.35 a week, or £174.42 a year, for our services from April this year, a rise of 2.7% for the year (£4.59). Most properties in Swale are in bands A-C, which means they will pay even less than this.

Cllr Duncan Dewar-Whalley, cabinet member for finance, said “We are proposing a modest increase in council tax so we can continue to invest in the services that are important to local people.

“This means that a typical band D property will be paying just £3.35 a week for the services we provide – almost two-thirds of households will pay less than that.

“Most people would be more than happy paying that just to have their bins collected, let alone pay for things like the budgeted for improvements for parks and leisure facilities.

“It also covers the delivery of the everyday services that people might take for granted – street cleaning, environmental health, homelessness, planning and many more.”



Your Services booklet will be available to view at:

www.swale.gov.uk/your-services

Who receives the council tax you pay



Where applicable, there will be an additional sum collected on behalf of Town and Parish Councils, which have chosen to levy a local precept.

Let's break it down...

Our total budget is made up from a combination of council tax, business rates, fees and charges (from things including car parks, garden waste collections and fines) and from funding through central government. However, the funding we receive from central government has significantly fallen in the last few years. In 2016/17 we received £1.95 million, but this has fallen to just £113,000 in 2019/20, and will have been reduced to nothing by 2020/2021.

So what does this go towards?

Some of the total revenue is spent on:



Ways to pay

Direct Debit is the easiest way to pay your council tax. It's simple to set up and saves you time. You can complete a Direct Debit form online – you don't need to register for an account or sign into our website.

Once it's set up, your council tax bill can be paid in either 10 or 12 monthly instalments.

Visit www.swale.gov.uk/ways-to-pay to set up your Direct Debit or to find out about other ways to pay.

You can also call our 24-hour automated payment line on **0330 088 1702**, pay online at www.swale.gov.uk/pay-your-council-tax, or pay by standing order, PayPoint or cheque.

If you do not already have an online My Services account to view details of your Council Tax Account, visit www.swale.gov.uk/my-services to register now.

If you have any questions about how to pay, or are struggling to make payments, call **01795 417272**.

Feature

Sittingbourne

Delivering
for you



's future starts to take shape

Teams have been working hard to set the foundations for Sittingbourne's regeneration. Construction on the new leisure development, Bourne Place, started just before Christmas.

The latest stage of the Spirit of Sittingbourne town centre project sees the construction of the new restaurant quarter, with restaurants including Nandos, Pizza Express and more to be announced in the coming weeks. Bourne Place will also be home to an eight screen The Light cinema and a 63 bed Travelodge hotel.

Leader of the council, Cllr Andrew Bowles, visited the Bourne Place development site in the New Year, along with Cllr Mike Cosgrove, cabinet member for regeneration.

Both councillors toured the site and Cllr Bowles was shown the piling rig, which was laying the foundations for the Bourne Place leisure site at the time.

Cllr Andrew Bowles said "We are really starting to see the regeneration of Sittingbourne taking shape. Everything has been in anticipation of this leisure quarter, which will make a real difference to the town."

After the tour, the councillors met with some of the local people who are employed on site. Frank, who lives in Sittingbourne, started working as a gateman after asking the site manager for a job on the site.



Speaking about the regeneration, Frank said: "We see a lot of people very happy about what's going on here and I am as well because I'm local. I think it's brilliant, definitely something Sittingbourne needs and will hopefully bring more people here".

Cllr Andrew Bowles continued "The regeneration is being built for local people, as well as to encourage people to travel to Sittingbourne. So it is great to see that the actual construction of the development is able to benefit residents too."

The work on the site is due to complete in 2019, with the fit out occurring before the opening of the restaurants and cinema in early 2020.

Don't just bag it... Bin it!

Dog waste bags have been popping up in some unusual places; on grass verges, by lampposts, on top of walls. They even seem to be decorating trees, shrubs and fences across the borough.

While a select few dog owners may think that once they have bagged it up their job is done, responsible dog owners know that this is not the case. Once you have bagged it, bin it. Leaving it in a bag without popping it in a dog waste, litter or general waste bin is just as bad as not bagging it at all, and is in fact littering.

If one of our enforcement officers spot you doing this, they can issue an on the spot Fixed Penalty Notices (FPN).



- Places not to put your dog waste bags**
- ✗ On the pavement
 - ✗ On walls
 - ✗ On fences
 - ✗ On tree or shrub branches

- Places to put your dog waste bags**
- ✓ In litter or dog waste bins
 - ✓ In your general waste bin

Top tips

Always ensure that you carry a poop scoop or bags with you to clear up your dog's waste.

The lack of a nearby dog waste bin is not an excuse to leave your dog's waste; you can put bagged dog waste in any public litter bin or take it home to your green household waste bin.

The Great British Spring Clean is back!

Litter pickers at the ready!

Keep Britain Tidy's Great British Spring Clean is back for another year, with a month of events planned to take place between 22 March and 23 April. We are hoping that this year will be even bigger and better than last year.

Even the Beast from the East couldn't stop teams of local volunteers taking to Swale's streets, beaches, creek sides and village greens to clean up litter thoughtlessly discarded by others last year.

Want to organise your own clean-up? We can help. We'll provide equipment and advice, and we'll arrange for Biffa – the borough's waste contractor – to dispose of all the litter you collect.

Any residents or community groups who would like to get involved still have time to organise a clean-up. Email environmentalprojects@swale.gov.uk or call **01795 417133** for more information.



Spring 'clear' your garden and get it ready for Summer

You do the clearing and pruning; we'll do the rest



- Easy
- Great Value
- Convenient
- No more trips to the tip!

To find out more or to order your brown bin, visit:

swale.gov.uk/brown-bin-garden-waste

or call **01795 417888**

Confused when it comes to your blue bin?

While a lot of us try and do the right thing with recycling, there can be a lot of confusing messaging as to what can and cannot go in your blue bin. This can sometimes lead to contaminated recycling.

Even one contaminated bin can lead to a whole lorry load of recyclables being rejected at the depot. That's not just bad for the environment; it wastes thousands of pounds of taxpayer money.

If you're not sure if something is recyclable, leave it out and pop it into your green bin. Make sure you know what to put in your blue bin – visit our website and try our waste wizard www.swale.gov.uk/blue-bin-recycling

Recycling myths:

It all gets sorted at the recycling centre

– while the recyclable materials get sorted, the non-recyclable materials cannot be sifted out at the centre

My crisp and sweet wrappers are plastic so can be recycled

– Not all plastics can be recycled, and unfortunately crisp packets, sweet and chocolate wrappers, and film plastics can't go in your blue recycling bin

The worst culprits are:

- Black sacks
- Food waste
- Textiles
- Nappies
- Crisp, chocolate and sweet wrappers
- Plastic film
- Garden waste

BEAUTY IS
SKIN DEEP



DON'T JUST EAT IT
COMPLEAT IT

Don't just eat it, Compleat it

In the UK, 10 million tonnes of food are wasted every year, with around 70% of that coming from our homes. This means there is a huge opportunity for us as individuals to make a positive difference and reduce the amount of food we waste at home.

Love Food, Hate Waste is encouraging more of us to reduce food waste and start Compleating our food.

Compleating is simple. It's about eating the whole ingredient or food and letting no edible parts go to waste. If you want some hints and tips, or some recipes about how to make the most out of your ingredients, visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com/compleating

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 is collected weekly with both bins.

Week 1 collections

| April 2019 | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| May 2019 | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| June 2019 | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

Week 2 collections

| April 2019 | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | | | | | |

| May 2019 | | | | | | |
|----------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

| June 2019 | | | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun |
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

If you are subscribed to our garden waste service you can check your collection dates at www.swale.gov.uk/my-collection-day

In the event of severe weather, please leave your green/blue bin and food waste bin out as per your normal collection schedule – we will get to you as soon as we can. Daily updates will be available on our website www.swale.gov.uk

TO DOORSTEP CRIMINALS

SAY NO!



5 steps to prevent doorstep criminals

1. Report sightings to Citizens Advice or Kent County Council Trading Standards
2. Sign up to receive free email alerts about doorstep criminals operating in your area. Email: **ppalerts@kent.gov.uk**
3. Get instant reports of doorstep criminals by following us on twitter **@kentprotect** and liking our Facebook page **public-protection**
4. Display a No Doorstep Caller sticker in your window/door
5. Tell friends, family and relatives to SAY NO to doorstep criminals...

IT'S A FACT!

Doorstep criminals often pass your details onto other criminals.

Doorstep criminals call on unsuspecting households offering convincing deals that you can't refuse. If you accept work from a doorstep criminal you'll pay much more than you intended for very poor unnecessary and sometimes dangerous work.

Report it

Citizens Advice consumer service phone **03454 04 05 06**
Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards

If you feel afraid or threatened phone 999. For non-urgent calls to the POLICE phone 101.

For more information visit: **kent.gov.uk/tradingstandards**

Beauty of the Beach

Sheppey has some beautiful beaches, and we are working with Southern Water in promoting Beauty of the Beach to celebrate Sheppey's coastline and to offer advice on how you can help us keep our beaches beautiful.

Two of Sheppey's beaches were awarded the highest standard of water quality in November for the fourth year in a row. Minster Leas Beach and Sheerness Beach were both rated as Excellent, and Leysdown Beach classified as Good.

Cllr David Simmons, cabinet member for environment and rural affairs, said "I am delighted that we are supporting the Beauty of the Beach campaign. Sheppey's coastline is some of the most beautiful in the country, and we should be proud of our natural environment. Let's all do our bit to keep our beaches clean and tidy."

For more information visit www.southernwater.co.uk/beautyofthebeach



Tips for a beautiful beach



Put any rubbish in litter bins and recycle wherever possible



Pick up dog poo and pop it in the bin – in partnership with Tikspac we provide free dog waste bag dispensers on Sheppey



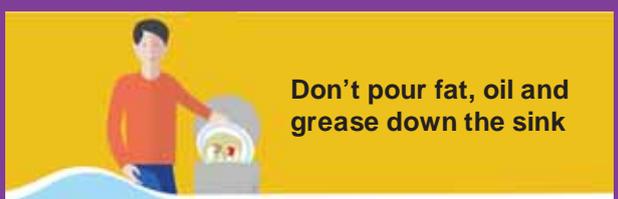
Don't flush things down the toilet that shouldn't go down there (such as wetwipes)



Maintain your drains and avoid leakages



Volunteer for a beach clean



Don't pour fat, oil and grease down the sink



Don't feed the gulls! Lots of gulls means lots of bird poo which can affect bathing water quality

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Lots more to offer

Swale Community and Voluntary Services (SCVS) will continue to run its successful 'Lots More to Offer' project this year.



Based at the SCVS offices in Sittingbourne, the project supports people over the age of 45 in finding work, access training and find suitable voluntary positions. The team regularly meet with people on a one to one basis to provide help with CV writing, job searching, interview skills, finding the right training to suit their needs and even accessing volunteering opportunities. The team

has even assisted some in starting their own business.

The project has been funded by the National Lottery and European Social Fund, and is overseen by Social Enterprise Kent.

The project will run until December 2019. If you would like to find out more, pop into Swale CVS offices at Central House, Central Avenue, Sittingbourne ME10 4NU. Alternatively you can contact Heather Medlock by calling **01795 473828** or **07734 256903**, or email heathermedlock@swalevcs.co.uk

NEW RETIREMENT APARTMENTS FOR SALE
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All the winners at the 2018 Swale Business of the Year Awards



Unipet celebrate their win at last years event

 Swale Business Awards

 @SwaleBusiness

 Swale Business Awards

9 Swale Business of the Year?

Open for entries from 26 March 2019

Now entering its thirteenth year, the Swale Business Awards offers numerous benefits to Swale organisations, including:

- A £1,000 cheque for the overall winner of Swale Business of the Year
- Recognition for your team's contribution to your success
- The opportunity to raise your business' profile and make potential customers aware of what you offer
- Extensive online coverage via our website, through our social media accounts and via local media
- Your company profile featured in the awards brochure
- Finalists are invited to attend our black tie gala evening, at the Kent Event Centre

Will you be crowned Swale Business of the Year? Or judged as the winner in one of our other categories?



- **Faversham Business of the Year**
- **Sheppey Business of the Year**
- **Sittingbourne Business of the Year**
- **Small Business of the Year**
- **Community Impact Award**
- **Employer of the Year**
- **Entrepreneur of the Year**
- **Customer Service and Commitment Award**
- **Judges' Special Award**

Any size and type of business can apply, although you must have been trading for a minimum of 12 months on 30 June 2019.

To find out more about the awards we'd like to invite you to join us on Tuesday 26 March when Phil Eckersley from the Bank of England will launch the awards and give a keynote speech, at The Old Brewery Store, Shepherd Neame, Faversham. To register to attend, please email awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk. For more information about the awards please visit our website www.swalebusinessawards.co.uk

Know a business you think should enter? You can nominate them by emailing to awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk with a name and contact person. We'll get in touch to tell them they've been anonymously nominated and encourage them to apply.

Jason Davies-Baker, Operations Director at Unipet International Ltd said: "The feeling of winning at the 2018 awards was absolutely fantastic. There was a lot of hard work put in by the team; in fact the team are the business. I'm really, really proud of their efforts, certainly over the last two-and-a-half years. This award is for them and it is onwards and upwards now!

"In terms of encouraging businesses to enter for the 2019 awards, we would advise them to focus on what makes your business really stand out from the crowd, thinking about what you bring to the local community and your key strengths, whether it be a fantastic team or a strong customer base."

Non-Swale services

Not sure of where to go for other services that aren't covered by us? Below is a list of where you can go for other services.



Kent County Council looks after:

- Street lights
- Traffic lights
- Drainage systems
- Grass verge cutting and verge maintenance
- Roadwork information
- Bus pass applications
- Blue badge applications
- Adoption and fostering
- Care and support for adults and children
- Information about how to report abuse of a child or adult
- Education
- School places
- Information about term dates
- College and sixth form information

For more information about services provided by Kent County Council, visit www.kent.gov.uk



The websites of all government departments and many other agencies and public bodies have been merged into GOV.UK.

Here you can see information about:

- Income tax
- National insurance
- Self assessment
- Driving licences
- Driving tests
- MOTs
- State pension
- Contracts
- Holiday rights
- Time off sick rights
- Passports
- Travelling abroad.

For more information about services provided by government departments, visit www.gov.uk

Thanking the hidden heroes of Swale

The Volunteer Swale Awards were back again, celebrating the dedicated volunteers in Swale. The winners were announced at a celebration at the Barnyard, Upchurch, on Friday 1 March.

Judges had the challenge to choose winners for eight categories from almost 70 nominations that had been received. Categories included support of sport, the environment and fundraising.

Cllr Andrew Bowles, leader of the council, said "Volunteers in Swale put in so much hard work year-round, and often go unthanked or unnoticed. These awards are the perfect opportunity for us to highlight the work that these hidden heroes do, and to celebrate and thank them for their efforts within the community."

To find out more about volunteering opportunities in Swale, visit www.swalecvs.org.uk, or call **01795 473828**.



This year's winners

Community Champion of the Year Award

Citizens Advice Service (Swale) Volunteers

Volunteering Contribution to Community Safety

Keeley Beaney

Volunteering Contribution to the Environment

Kelly Rhodes

Volunteering Contribution to Sport

Michael Santangelo

Volunteering to Support Older People

Oasis Academy Dementia Cafe

Volunteering to Support Young People

Nicola Baker

Fundraising Volunteer of the Year

Fun for Life

Outstanding Achievement Award

Deirdre and Dennis Ines

A dedicated duo

A couple who have spent the last 25 years tirelessly raising money for Kent Air Ambulance have finally been given the recognition they deserve, and are this year's winners of the Outstanding Achievement Award.

Deirdre and Dennis have been volunteering for over 25 years, raising hundreds of thousands of pounds for the Kent Air Ambulance. They have never sought any recognition for their work and yet selflessly volunteer their time and energy to quietly provide vital community services and financial donations. In the first nine years of volunteering they raised over £100,000, and although they haven't kept count since then, they are estimated to have raised a further several hundred thousands of pounds.

Your councillors

▶ Conservative ▶ Independent

▶ Labour ▶ The Swale Group

Abbey



Bryan Mulhern

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bryanmulhern@swale.gov.uk



Anita Walker

01795 531192
anitajwalker@yahoo.co.uk

Bobbing, Iwade & Lower Halstow



Duncan Dewar-Whalley

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Borden & Grove Park



Mike Baldock

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Nicholas Hampshire

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Boughton & Courtenay



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