

Autumn 2019

# Inside Swale

## **New local housing policy**

The new housing, homelessness and rough sleeping policy

## **Parking concessions back**

Parking concessions reinstated for Leisure Centre users

## **What's on**

Your guide to events and days out in Swale

## **Faversham Rec update**

Work underway at the Rec

## **Recycle Week**

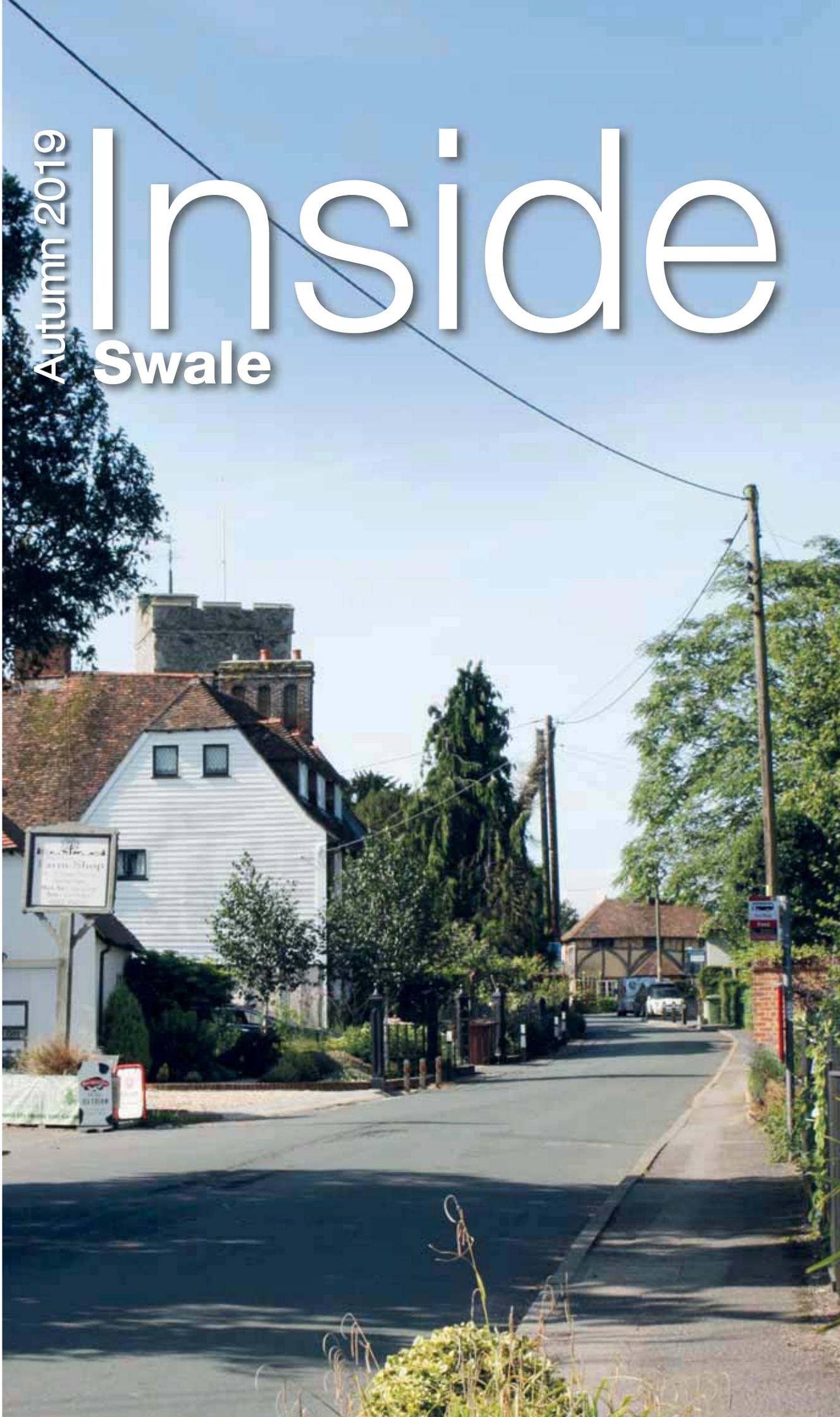
Help to understand those tricky rules around recycling

## **Refuse and recycling calendar**

Collection dates to the end of December 2019

## **Fusion Festival is back**

Festival back for a third year





# Learn to Swim in Swale!

Sign up TODAY!

For full details of all our swimming lessons  
for all ages and abilities please visit:

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

**Sheppey Leisure Complex**  
Off the Broadway, Sheerness,  
Kent, ME12 1HH  
Tel: **01795 668652**

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

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





*Mike Baldock, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning and Heritage.*

The previous introduction for Inside Swale was from the new council leader Cllr Roger Truelove, who talked about how different groups have come together to form a new administration. We want to introduce you to different members of the administration so you can get a better idea of who we are and what we are trying to achieve. So, this time it's my turn!

Working together is a key part of how we want the council to operate. We want to involve you in the decisions we make so that things are done with you, not to you. As part of this, on page 14 you'll see us asking your views on how we can get people from the different areas of the borough to become more involved in council business.

This is a fundamental part of the new administration's approach, and we have already started running informal consultations on different aspects of council business. This way we can get your thoughts and ideas right at the very beginning of the process.

We've also made it quite clear that we'll take a far more robust approach to unsustainable housing programmes, turning the focus towards meeting local need rather than bowing down to external diktat.

This edition also has updates on progress towards our priorities, such as improving our environment (page 7) and making sure our housing services work for local people (page 4).

It's still early in the life of the administration, but we're already starting to make progress in the areas you told us are important to you. A key part of this is the new special projects fund (page 5). This will make £1 million a year available to help pay for projects, such as improvements to our parks and public spaces, and promotion of our local heritage. As you'll see on pages 12, some areas are already seeing improvements.

It's my hope that more people will come forward with ideas for similar projects in their communities, so even more of the borough will enjoy the benefits of our investment.

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Cover photo: View looking from Bredgar Pond towards St John the Baptist Church.

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The information in this publication is correct at the time of going to print and every attempt is made to ensure its accuracy.

## New role to help improve health in Swale

As part of our efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of residents in Swale, we recently appointed a new health and wellbeing officer and she will be taking up her new role in October.

It will be her job to work in partnership with the community, voluntary sector and other public bodies to co-ordinate and target health inequalities in the borough. She will also champion the health and wellbeing agenda in the council to ensure all our services promote the health of communities.

## Real living wage introduced for low paid council workers



Low paid council workers will be getting a pay rise to reflect the real cost of living. This was confirmed after cabinet members approved plans to make sure its staff are paid the real living wage.

Unlike the national minimum wage, the real living wage takes account of the cost of living, so makes sure people receive enough to get by.

The real living wage, which is set in the first week of November, is currently £9.00 an hour compared to £8.21 for the national living wage.

Cabinet members also agreed to draw up proposals to encourage our contractors to pay their staff the real living wage.

# Local people at the centre of local housing policy

Councillors have approved a new housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategy, which sets out how we'll



work to tackle housing issues over the next four years.

Research that informed the strategy found a number of challenges,

including the pressure of people moving from the London area, the lack of genuinely affordable housing and pressure on services supporting people at risk of homelessness.

We also carried out a consultation earlier this year, which raised issues of the quantity and affordability of housing, particularly for people on low incomes.

The approved housing, homelessness and rough sleeping strategy 2019-23 sets out four priorities for the council:

- Deliver affordable housing
- Prevent homelessness
- Reduce the need for emergency and temporary accommodation
- Improve conditions in existing homes

To deliver these, the council has committed to:

- Invest in and deliver affordable housing
- Promote a new early intervention homeless prevention service
- Develop and improve partnerships to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping in Swale
- Prevent the need for, and reduce the length of time spent in, temporary accommodation
- Ensure support is available for vulnerable households
- Improve private sector housing conditions including helping older, disabled and vulnerable people to live in safe adapted homes

The report on the strategy was agreed at the cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 10 July, and the full report is available at <https://bit.ly/2Zji9LJ>

# Barton's Point footbridge to be replaced

Plans are being put together to replace the damaged bridge between Barton's Point Coastal Park and the Queenborough Lines. The bridge was closed in July after damage to the structure was reported.

Engineers have inspected the bridge and found the damage was too severe to repair the existing structure. The bridge was removed after the summer holidays and a replacement will be in place ready for next summer.

The hardwood iroko bridge has been a favourite crossing into the Coastal Park since it was installed over 25 years ago, and despite some repairs a couple of years ago, it's time for a replacement to be sought.

We plan to install a temporary bridge to open up this popular route as soon as possible while we wait on a new permanent bridge. The coastal park remains open and you can still get to the café, play area and camping field via Marine Parade.



## New special projects fund launched

Councillors have set up a multimillion-pound fund to allow greater investment in projects that will make a difference to the borough over the next four years.

The special projects fund of £1 million a year has been set up to deliver things like meaningful improvements to play areas and the public realm, and funding new initiatives to prevent social isolation particularly on Sheppey and in rural areas.

## Are your details up to date on the electoral register?

- It's that time of year again when annual canvass letters have been hitting doormats.
- By letting us know if the details are correct or if they need changing you are ensuring that you're able to vote.
- You can let us know who at your address is eligible to vote by filling in the form and sending it back to us, or by confirming and updating your details online.
- The electoral register lists the names and addresses of everyone that is registered to vote. It's important that you let us know if the details we have are correct or if you have any changes so that you are eligible to vote in any future elections.
- For more information, visit [www.swale.gov.uk/all-about-voting](http://www.swale.gov.uk/all-about-voting)



## Parking concessions reinstated

Visitors to Sheppey Leisure Complex and Swallows Leisure Centre can once again park for free when they workout, swim or play.

The car park concession was reinstated in September for users of the Sittingbourne and Sheppey leisure centres.

The concession offers leisure centre users a refund for up to two hours parking at the council owned sites, which have both benefitted from significant improvements in the last year. The refund will depend on activity at the centres and the duration of visit.

To find out more about what's on offer at the centres, visit [www.swaleleisure.com](http://www.swaleleisure.com)

## Skatepark slides closer to completion

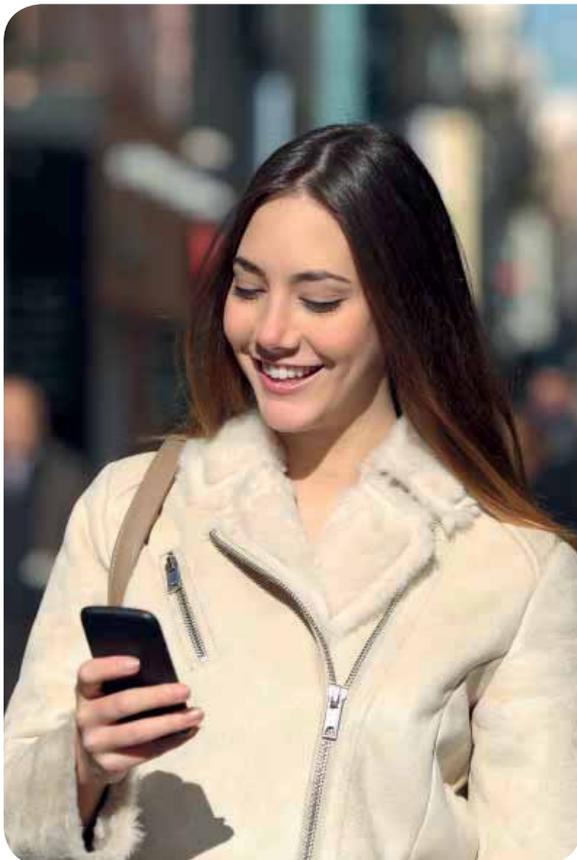


Work at the new Sittingbourne skatepark is nearing completion.

The brand-new facility, which is being built next to the Mill Way Retail

- Park, has been designed in consultation with local young people, and will create a 570m<sup>2</sup> area for urban sports in the town.
- The new £240,000 park will feature rails, grind banks, jump box, stair set and more.
- The park will be managed and maintained by Brogdale CIC, who hope to use the park for events, and to provide training and enterprise opportunities for local young people.
- The skatepark is expected to open in October.

## New CCTV strategy could see free WiFi for town centres



Swale's CCTV network could have a total overhaul after cabinet members agreed in principle to not only upgrade it, but to also bring the service back under council control. As part of the system upgrade, councillors are also looking at offering free WiFi in town centres.

The 52-camera system is currently operated by the Medway Commercial Group, on behalf of the CCTV partnership with Medway, Maidstone and Gravesham councils.

To make sure the CCTV network is effective, the proposals are for a new control room to be installed in the multi-storey car park in Sittingbourne. This would be operated during periods of higher crime and anti-social behaviour, and cover the times pubs and clubs are open.

The system would be upgraded to wireless, with higher quality cameras and more flexibility to deploy to sites where they're needed, which also gives the option for providing free WiFi to Faversham, Sheerness and Sittingbourne town centres.

The final decision will be made by cabinet members later in the year.

## Environmental Grants back

Local environmental projects could get a £5,000 boost from the proceeds of litter fines.

We've reopened our environment grant scheme to support community projects and organisations that help deliver on environmental objectives.

The £15,000 fund is paid for from the income from littering and fly-tipping fixed penalty notices. The maximum grant for any one project is £5,000 and only one application can be submitted by an organisation in each financial year.

It's the second time the fund has been open, and the previous scheme offered up to £1,000 per project from a pot of £5,000. This paid for projects such as beach cleans, wildlife surveys, litter bins, planters, and towards supporting and waste education schemes for children.

For more information about the funding, and to apply visit: [www.swale.gov.uk/environment-grants](http://www.swale.gov.uk/environment-grants)

## Community Fund now open for applications

- Charities are being invited to apply for grants to assist in financing community projects. The Community Fund donated by Orchard Community Energy is now open for applications.
- Members of Orchard Community Energy have allocated a community fund of £10,000 for projects starting in 2020. Grants will be between a minimum of £2,000 and a maximum of £5,000, and must benefit residents of Swale and Medway.
- Charities will need to have their completed applications in by midday on Thursday 31 October 2019.
- The application process for the fund is being managed by Orchard Community Energy. For full details of how to apply visit: <http://orchard.coop>

# Climate and ecological emergency declared in Swale



Councillors have passed a motion which commits us to acting to reducing carbon emissions and taking action to tackle the global climate and ecological emergency.

The vote means we will aim to make our own operations carbon neutral by 2025 and work with businesses, residents and organisations so the whole borough hits this ambitious target by 2030.

The motion also committed the council to becoming plastic free by 2021, and making sure improving energy efficiency and creating space for nature are key priorities in all our strategies and plans.

We'll now start working on plans to address the climate emergency, which will be reported back to full council by the end of 2019/20.

# Swale's autumn activities

## What's on in Swale

24 September – 17 October  
**The Criterion Music Hall presents**  
**'Music Hall Greats'**



Matinee performances with curtain up at 2.30pm every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday includes an interval show tea.

To celebrate the 2019

season, the Criterion Music Hall will pay tribute to some of the music hall greats including Marie Lloyd, Vesta Tilley and Harry Champion.

For more information and to book, visit:  
[www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/criterion-music-hall](http://www.thecriterionbluetown.co.uk/criterion-music-hall)

Friday 4 October  
**Talk – The Industrial Revolution of Sheerness Dockyard at Sheppey Little Theatre**

Jeremy Thornton tells how the Industrial Revolution changed Sheerness Dockyard. Tickets are just £4

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

Sunday 6 October  
**Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway**

A day at the Bredgar and Wormshill Light Railway



includes unlimited trips in the vintage style railway carriages hauled by gleaming historic locomotives.

The main building houses the steam locomotives, vintage motor cars, a steam powered beam engine, the model railway and numerous small exhibits.

There are woodland walks and plenty of places for a picnic. The tea room and railway shop will also both be open throughout the day.

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

Thursday 10 October  
**Autumn Cream Tea and Tractor Tour at Brogdale Collections**



Enjoy a day out at Brogdale with a Cream Tea and Tractor Tour. Take a special tractor trailer tour of the National Fruit Collection orchards led

by an expert guide before relaxing in Brogdale rustic rooms with tea and scones.

For more information, visit  
[www.brogdalecollections.org/product/cream-tea-tractor-tour-2](http://www.brogdalecollections.org/product/cream-tea-tractor-tour-2)

Sunday 13 October  
**ABBA Chique - 10th Anniversary Tour – Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne**



ABBA Chique return to the theatre for their 10th Anniversary Tour performing ABBA's greatest hits including songs from Mamma Mia 1 & 2.

All the glamour and glitz of a real ABBA concert!  
Find out more, visit [www.avenuetheatre.co.uk](http://www.avenuetheatre.co.uk)

## Friday 18 October A Timetable for Murder – Hempstead House



The year is 1955 and having received an unexpected invitation along with pre-paid tickets, a selected group of family members have been requested to meet Great Aunt Agatha at the local railway station where they will be taken on a mystery journey which all will all remember for a lifetime.

Murder Mystery Evening including a glass of bubbly and four course meal, £55 per person.

Find out more, visit [www.hempsteadhouse.co.uk/events/murder-mystery](http://www.hempsteadhouse.co.uk/events/murder-mystery)

## Thursday 24 October Autumn Half Term Beastie Day at Brogdale Collections



A full day of exploring Brogdale and discovering fantastic bugs and mini beasts. Book your Live Bug Show time and spend the whole day exploring the orchards, discovering bugs and

have lots of fun. Some of the shows include a chance to hunt and collect bugs in the orchards, and close encounters with live bugs such as giant cockroaches, millipedes, stick insects and moths.

For more information, visit:

[www.brogdalecollections.org/half-term-days](http://www.brogdalecollections.org/half-term-days)

## Saturday 23 November Christmas Lights Night Food Market



Come along to the 'Night Food Market' in conjunction with the switch on of the Faversham Community Christmas Lights.

The evening will start from 5pm with the switch on of the Faversham Christmas lights by Father Christmas and friends. The night market will

start at 6pm with plenty of delicious local food and drinks to choose from and entertainment galore!

Don't forget to wrap up warm so you can enjoy the festivities all evening in comfort!

Find out more, visit [www.favershammarket.org](http://www.favershammarket.org)

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](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk)

You can submit events online for listing on Visit Swale and Visit Kent. Simply visit [www.visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form](http://www.visit-swale.co.uk/whats-on/visit-swale-event-submission-form). Or, you can contact us with your listings by emailing [tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk](mailto:tourismsupport@swale.gov.uk)

Don't forget to follow us on social media:

 @Visit\_Swale

 VisitSwale

# Faversham Rec transformation gets off the ground



The work to transform Faversham Rec and give it a new lease of life is now well underway. In July 2018 the Heritage Lottery Fund, now called the Heritage Fund, awarded funding of £1.6 million for the park improvement project.

The funding is helping deliver an ambitious £1.9 million, heritage-led, regeneration that will restore many of the park's historic features and improve the facilities.

## Play area

Work started in the spring to refurbish and renew the play area, which was ready in time for the summer holidays. Contractors installed new equipment and safety surfacing with emphasis on accessibility. The design of the play area and the equipment chosen were a result of our consultations with young people, both on site, and with schools and youth clubs.

## Refurbishment

Contractors have started working on the restoration and improvements to the Grade II listed lodge building, remodelling and repairs to the existing changing pavilion and a significant amount of upgrading in the Rec itself with coffee kiosk, event area, boundary fencing, new paved surfaces, additional planting and new access.

## Activities

We're currently recruiting part time activity coordinator and ranger posts to encourage and set up events, activities and volunteering on site. We've been encouraged by the great response we have already had to some small scale activities over the last year including litter picking, shrub pruning, Christmas crafts, and clay creatures.

We plan to make as much use as possible of the new outdoor event space and indoor community room, and have lots activities planned for once the works are complete, but we are always looking for people to help.

We're also looking to set up a new friends group or forum to help steer the direction, future activity and maintenance of Faversham Rec.

More information about the project can be found on [www.swale.gov.uk/faversham-recreation-ground](http://www.swale.gov.uk/faversham-recreation-ground)



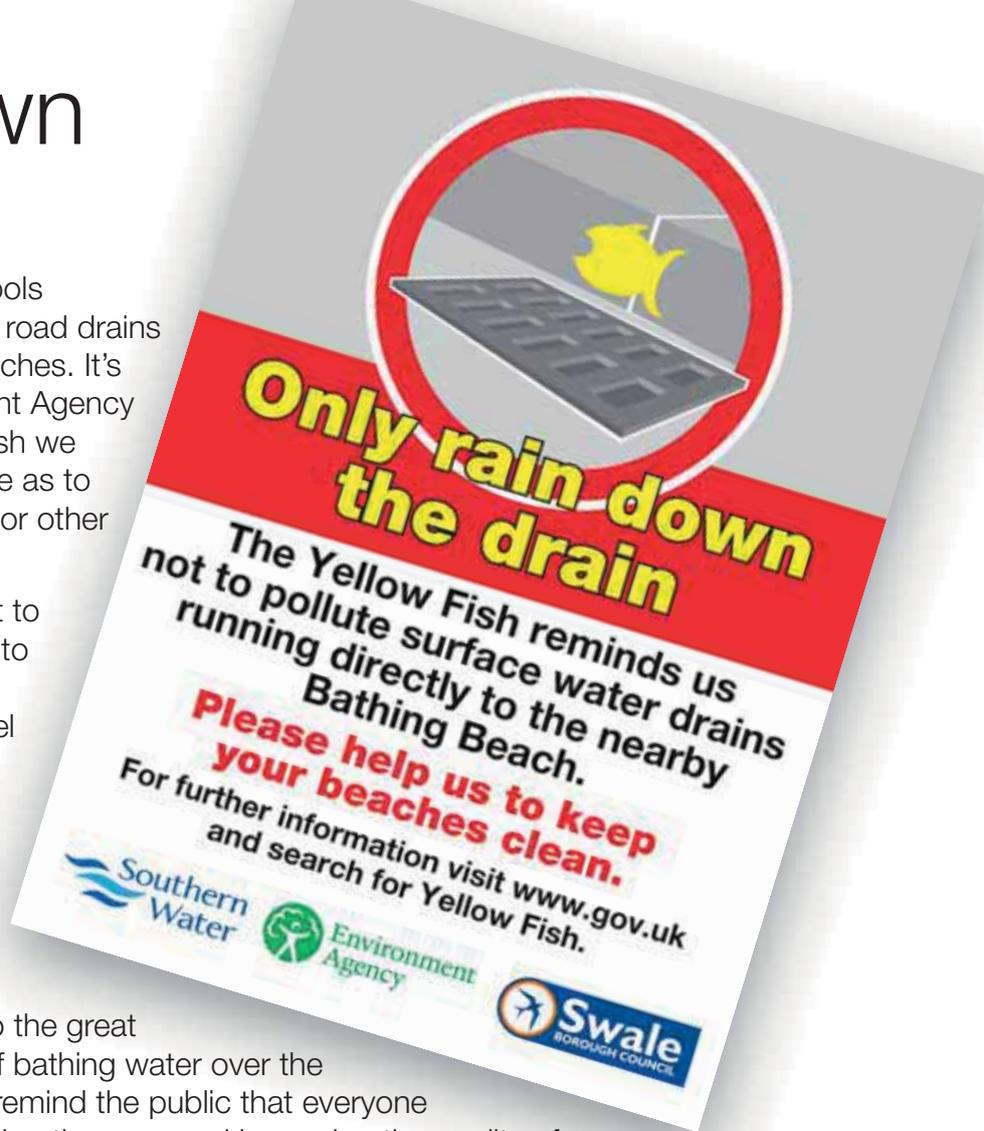
# Only rain down the drain

You may have noticed yellow fish symbols appearing on and around the grates of road drains in the vicinity of Sheppey's bathing beaches. It's all part of our work with the Environment Agency and Southern Water; by using yellow fish we can alert people on Sheppey's coastline as to what happens when they pour fat, oils or other waste down drains or road gullies.

We've painted yellow fish symbols next to drains carrying surface water directly into the sea. The aim is to remind residents and businesses how pollution can travel directly into the ocean.

This national campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of keeping the country's bathing waters clean, supported by the mantra 'Only rain down the drain!'

Initiatives like these have contributed to the great strides made in improving the quality of bathing water over the last 20 years. We'd like to continue to remind the public that everyone has an important part to play in protecting the seas and improving the quality of Sheppey's bathing waters.



## Top tips for a beautiful beach:

-  Put your rubbish in a bin or take it home with you
-  Pick up dog poo and pop it in the bin – we have partnered with Tikspac to 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



## Why not help keep our beaches clean...

By getting involved in one of the regular beach cleans, or by doing your own

clean up for two minutes at the end of your trip to the beach can make a big difference. You can find the **#2MinuteBeachClean** board by the Swale Borough Council Resorts Office. Simply use one of the litter pickers and take two minutes out of your day fill a bag with litter before returning the picker to the board.

And of course, taking your own rubbish and recycling home with you at the end of your visit to the beach makes a big difference.

# Playing in Swale has never been so much fun

Swale's play areas are continuing to get an upgrade, keeping play challenging and fun.

**Milton Creek Country Park** is among one of the parks to get new equipment. A new play tower has been installed at the country park, with opportunities to climb and slide – it also offers great views of the whole of Milton Creek at the top of the slide.

**Faversham Rec play area** is now looking shiny and new thanks to investment that forms part of the upgrades to the rec. The new equipment and wetpour surface were chosen with local children in mind following consultations.

**Balas Drive play area** in Sittingbourne is currently being improved with new equipment going in over the coming months.



*The new slide at Milton Creek Country Park.*

## Fun to be had in fitness

You may have noticed new outdoor gym equipment has also been installed across the borough too.

Minster Leas Promenade has benefitted from 12 pieces of new outdoor gym equipment. The equipment was installed along the promenade in the summer to replace the previous outdoor gym equipment which had been popular since it was installed in 2010.

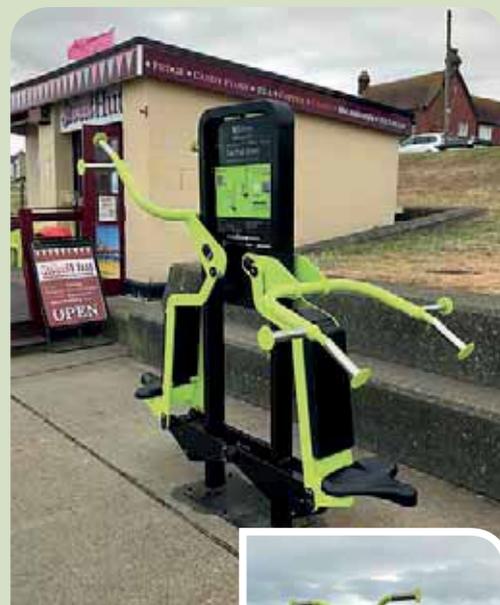
The new outdoor gym equipment, supplied by The Great Outdoor Gym Company based in Faversham, is made in the UK and has been galvanised to protect it from the Minster sea air.

The upgraded equipment cost £31,000 and was paid for by Minster-On-Sea Parish Council and Swale Borough Council.

Equipment includes:

- Spinner bikes
- Cross trainers
- Treadmill
- Pull up
- Chest press
- Shoulder press

Rectory Park in Sittingbourne has also had a host of new gym equipment installed, making fitness fun for all ages.



# Gunpowder Works is no Oare-dinary park



Oare Gunpowder Works Country Park has held on to its prestigious Green Flag, after being classed as one of the very best in the world.

The country park outside Faversham is among a record-breaking 1,970 UK parks and green spaces and 131 in thirteen other countries around the world, that have received a prestigious Green Flag Award – the mark of a quality park or green space.

This international award, now into its third decade, is a sign that the space boasts the highest possible

environmental standards, is beautifully maintained and has excellent visitor facilities.

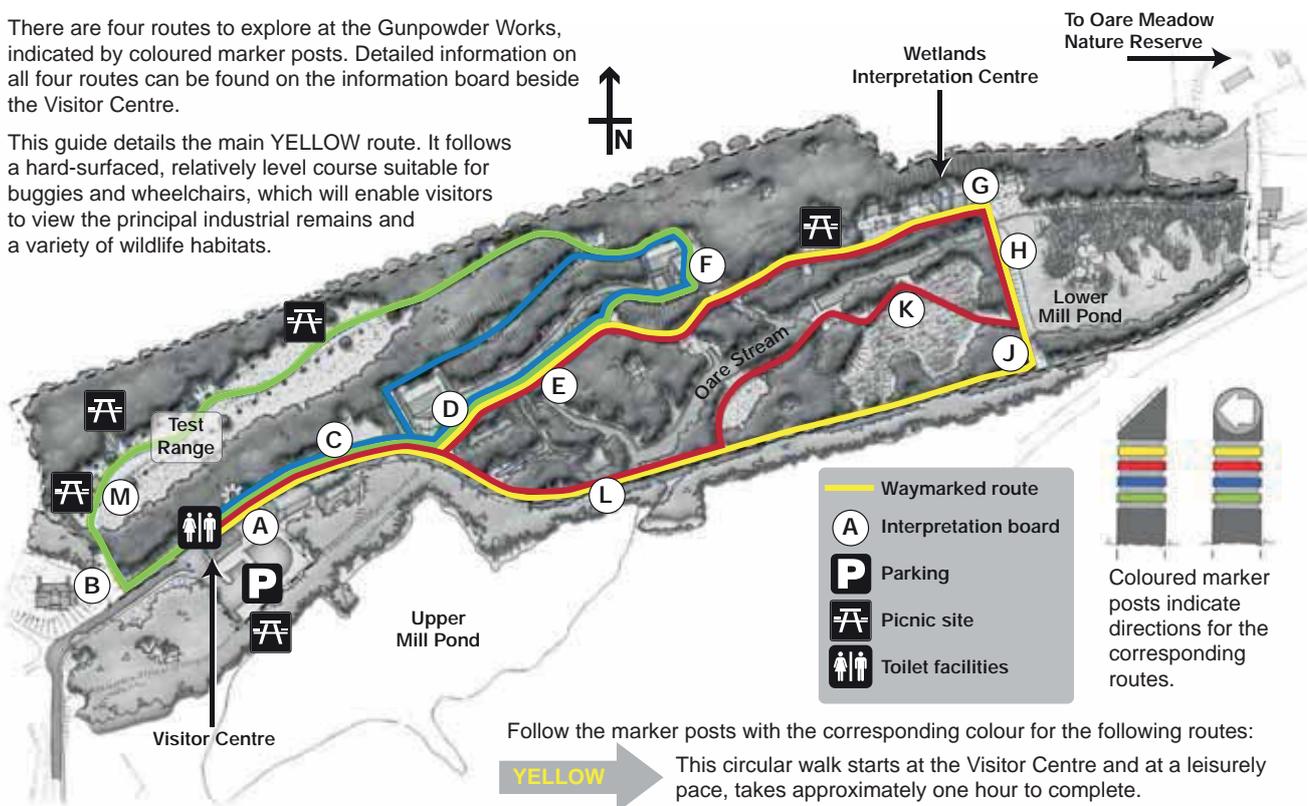
Oare was once one of the main gunpowder factories in the south east, and the country park is one of the best places to discover history of gunpowder manufacturing in a tranquil woodland setting. The site was a key ammunitions factory during the First World War, and the country park is a nationally important archaeological site and is designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The park has a rich variety of habitats including woodland, wetlands and open glades, meaning that the site is wonderful place to discover wildlife. Birds, bats, amphibians, and much more call this place home, and make the country park a perfect walk or cycle ride.

Anyone interested in joining the Friends of Oare Gunpowder Works, or helping them in their conservation work at the country park, can find out more by visiting [www.gunpowderworks.co.uk](http://www.gunpowderworks.co.uk) or by joining them on one of their activity days on the second Sunday of the month at 10:30am.

There are four routes to explore at the Gunpowder Works, indicated by coloured marker posts. Detailed information on all four routes can be found on the information board beside the Visitor Centre.

This guide details the main YELLOW route. It follows a hard-surfaced, relatively level course suitable for buggies and wheelchairs, which will enable visitors to view the principal industrial remains and a variety of wildlife habitats.



Follow the marker posts with the corresponding colour for the following routes:

**YELLOW** This circular walk starts at the Visitor Centre and at a leisurely pace, takes approximately one hour to complete.

**RED** This walk guides you along the Leats and the Oare Stream past several industrial remains to the Interpretation Centre and across the marshland boardwalk.

**BLUE** This circular walk will guide you through the woodlands past several industrial remains surrounding the Upper Leat.

**GREEN** This walk leads past the Upper Leat, through woodland and across the Test Range passing the remains of several buildings.

Please be aware, these routes include steps and steeper inclines.

# Moving towards equality and diversity

A motion that seeks to encourage greater diversity within the council was put forward at the full council meeting on 11 September. The aim is to understand and break down barriers for underrepresented people wanting to stand for election, helping improve equality and diversity in the council chamber.

Councillors will work to encourage a safe and fair working environment, by advocating robustly and actively for minority groups and by condemning incidences of discrimination, whether in the chamber or out in their communities.

There will also be more support for councillors and officers in speaking out against and condemning any form of discrimination based on personal characteristics, whether this be racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, maternity-, paternity- or faith-based discrimination, or any other form of discrimination.

As a result, the motion looks to implement compulsory training for all councillors on diversity and equality, including unconscious bias, and to request officers to consider how the allocation of seats on some committees could be restricted to those who have completed the training.

To view the full decision, visit <https://bit.ly/2LhEfJz>



## We want your views!

One of the priorities of the new administration is to look into devolving power and decision-making to local areas.

As part of the review of our constitution, we're currently looking into whether we should set up three or more area committees.

Area committees can give local residents an opportunity to observe and take part in our decision-making arrangements.

We want to ask for your views on whether we should set up area committees, and, if we do, what form they should take and what powers they should have.

Responses to the survey will let the working group know what residents think and will help them come up with options for their report.

### What Area Committees can do

Area committees can take many forms. For example, their membership can be made up of:

- Borough councillors
- Representatives from other bodies in the area, including parish and town councils
- Members of the public

They can undertake a variety of roles, and can act as:

- An engagement mechanism
- Advisory and consultative committees
- Decision-making committees that allocate money to certain projects

To take part in the survey, visit [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5QDQW5Z](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/5QDQW5Z) and fill in the simple questionnaire. You will need to let us know your views by Friday 1 November.

# STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



## White Ribbon Day 2019

It has been almost a year since Swale was named an official White Ribbon Borough – a marker of our commitment to tackling domestic abuse. The White Ribbon Campaign engages men in an effort to end male violence against women. By wearing a white ribbon, men promise to never commit, condone or remain silent about such violence.

The Swale Community Safety Partnership (CSP) started work in 2016 to raise awareness of domestic abuse and the White Ribbon principles. The CSP have since

recruited nine ambassadors from partnership organisations including Swale Borough Council, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service and many more. These ambassadors help to spread the message among the community by visiting sport clubs, community groups and engaging with local schools.

Monday 25 November marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls, and our ambassadors will be out and about across the borough, promoting the campaign. They will also be promoting the support services available in Swale to schools and colleges, agency staff and the public.

If you need advice or support, visit [www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk](http://www.domesticabuseservices.org.uk).

To find out more about the White Ribbon campaign, and to take the pledge please visit [www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk](http://www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk).

## Swale Business Awards 2019 finalists



The Swale Business Awards 2019 has surpassed itself yet again, having received a record number of applicants.

Fifty two businesses from across the borough decided to throw their hat into the ring for the 2019 awards and, after much deliberation, the judging panel have whittled the list down to 23 finalists:

- 3D Displays
- AbBaltis
- Burden Bros Agri
- Cucumber Catering
- Elmley Nature Reserve
- Kayo Digital
- Kent Catering Service
- No Place Like Home
- Queenborough Harbour CIC
- Saxon Shore Estate Agents
- Tribeca Technology Group
- Weatherall & Wyles Plumbing and Heating Services
- A2 Tyre Supplies
- BB4 Hospitality
- Computer Rescue
- Edibleculture
- Golden Leas Holiday Park
- Kedoo Optical
- Lorenden Prep School
- The Oast Osteopathy
- SATEDA
- Sheppey 92.2FM Community Radio
- Waller Building & Glazing

The judging panel have been to visit the finalists, who will all be invited to the Swale Business Awards 2019 Gala Awards Ceremony, taking place at Kent Event Centre on 18 October. This year, tickets to the ceremony will be made available to everyone. If you are interested in attending, please email [awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk](mailto:awards@swalebusinessawards.co.uk) for more information.

# HOLLIS HEATING

Family run business for over 50 years

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**Sittingbourne**

**01795 473170**

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Boiler installations starting from

**£1600 inc VAT**

**10 years parts and labour  
warranty on selected boilers**



# More support for food banks



We're putting plans together to help local foodbanks support more local families across the borough.

Cabinet members have been meeting with groups such as Children and Families, Faversham Foodbank and Sittingbourne Foodbank that run local projects to get a better understanding of the need and take up of the service.

These meetings also gave councillors the chance to see how the foodbanks work with each other and other agencies and helped the council identify ways it could support them to become more effective and help flag up opportunities for more cooperation between groups.

Plans will also include finding ways to ensure people are getting information about eating healthily and pointing people towards relevant advice to help address their need for a foodbank in the first place.

The plans to support foodbanks in all areas of the borough are being finalised, but the aim is to provide funding to help them become more efficient. We also aim to work with them to develop a more effective partnership working with other foodbanks and organisations working with people in severe need.

Through this joint working we can help to not only promote healthier eating, but to also tackle the causes of food bank use by working with others to offer budgeting, debt management and income maximisation advice.

The project is being put together by a number of cabinet and deputy cabinet members including Cllr Julian Saunders, who is leading on the project, Cllr Angela Harrison, Cllr Richard Palmer, and Cllr Hannah Perkin.

## Want to donate to your local foodbank?

There are plenty of ways you can help your local foodbanks. To find out more about how you can get involved with foodbanks on the Isle of Sheppey, visit [www.children-families.org](http://www.children-families.org)

Another way you can help is by picking up an extra couple of items on your next food shop and dropping them in to the donation stations.

### Food donation points include:

Tesco, Crescent Road, Faversham  
(front of store past the checkouts)

Sainsbury's, Bysingwood Road, Faversham (front of store near exit)

Morrisons, West Street, Faversham  
(after check outs opposite self service tills)

Tesco, Bridge Road, Sherness

Seashells Childrens' Centre, Sheerness

Ladybird Childrens' Centre, Rushenden

The Fleur-de-Lis Centre, Preston Street, Faversham (shop staff will be on hand to help you)

Sainsbury's Sittingbourne (front of store by the checkouts/customer services)

Morrisons, Sittingbourne (by the checkouts)

Sittingbourne Baptist Church, High Street, Sittingbourne (The Hub)

Beaches Childrens' Centre, Leysdown

Holy Trinity Church, Sittingbourne (next to Lidl)

# Taking recycling into our own hands – Recycle Week 2019

Every year we get involved with the national Recycle Week campaign, which this year starts Monday 23 September. It's our chance to help you understand the sometimes-tricky rules around recycling.

While there's lots that can be recycled, it doesn't mean that everything can go in your recycling bin. Some people may be surprised about what can't go in with your recycling.

To avoid contaminating a collection, we ask that you don't include any of the items to the right.

## Rinse it then recycle it!

Some of your recycling may want a quick rinse before you pop it in your blue bin.

Tins, jars, milk bottles, plastic food containers and yoghurt pots will all need a bit of a rinse before they go in the recycling. No need to spend ages scrubbing them or rinsing them under the tap though, a quick slosh around in the leftover water you used for the washing up will do the job.

## Things from all around your house can be recycled

Don't just think about your kitchen when it comes to recycling, there's lots from all around your house that can go in your recycling bin. There's lots from your bathroom that can go in your recycling too.

Empty liquid soap dispensers, shampoo bottles, conditioner bottles, shower gel bottles, cardboard toilet rolls, and the cardboard packaging from your toothpaste or new toothbrush can all be popped in your recycling.

## Do not put these in your BLUE BIN

- Black sacks
- Film plastics or soft plastic packaging
- Crisp packets/chocolate and sweet wrappers
- Blister packs for tablets
- Toothpaste tubes
- Nappies/sanitary products
- Pet litter
- Food waste
- Textiles
- Electrical items



Recycling is in our hands – so let's make sure we are doing our bit to save the planet, one plastic bottle at a time!

## Handy recycling tip:

### Don't forget to flatten cardboard boxes!

Flattening cardboard boxes means they don't get stuck in your recycling bin and means you don't accidentally miss any non-recyclable packing materials – such as polystyrene – that need to go in with general waste.

# Has your collection been missed?

Your waste must be placed out for collection by 7am on the morning of your collection day, if you get home to find that your bin wasn't collected on the day it should have been, then simply report the missed collection to us within two working days and we will arrange for a crew to come back and empty it.

You can report a missed collection online [www.swale.gov.uk/report-a-missed-bin-2](http://www.swale.gov.uk/report-a-missed-bin-2) or by calling **01795 417888**.

There could be a number of reasons why your bin may not have been collected. There may have been issues with the lorries or at the depot, or staff shortages could mean that our contractors were unable to finish the rounds that day. We will try to keep you updated through our Facebook and Twitter accounts if there are wider issues with collections and will let you know the next steps, if this is the case please leave your bin out and our contractors will get to you as soon as possible.

## Recycling and refuse collection dates

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 **01795 417888**.

 Blue wheelie bin collection week

 Green wheelie bin collection week

**Don't forget, food waste is collected weekly with both bins.**

 For collections during the Christmas period please refer to our website or local press.

### Week 1 collections

October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
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	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

### Week 2 collections

October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
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	6					1	2	3							1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

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



# Fusion Festival is back in Swale for another year

In partnership with Cohesion Plus and Kent Equality Cohesion Council, we are organising Swale's third 'Fusion Festival'.

This colourful festival of light, music and art will take place on Friday 11 October 2019, from 6:00pm onwards.

By promoting our shared values of tolerance, understanding and respect that bind us together as communities, Swale Fusion Festival helps to showcase our area's diversity with the aim of improving community cohesion.

Like last year's event, Swale Fusion Festival will take place over one evening. All Swale schools have been invited to take part in art workshops in their schools, culminating in a Lantern Parade through Sittingbourne High Street.

Starting at Wilkos, the parade will end at Albany Recreation Ground with a free public firework display. A range of community cohesion activities, including an artistic light display and the Sittingbourne FM roadshow, will be in the park alongside the firework show to encourage audience engagement.



## Fusion Festival programme of events

- 5.45pm** Children arrive at the top of Sittingbourne High Street – near the entrance of Wilkos
- 6:00pm** Static performances
- 6.30pm** Parade starts
- 7:00pm** Parade arrives in Albany Park
- 7.10pm** Fireworks Display
- 7.30pm** Finish

# No tricks, only treats!

It's approaching that time of year when things start to get a little bit spooky! Halloween is usually a fun time of year, but unfortunately there are times when a few people can make it an unpleasant and scary time.

Our Community Safety Unit are working again with partner agencies to help cut down on antisocial behaviour, and to help everyone feel safe at Halloween. We'll also be working with Kent Police and KCC to provide additional foot patrols around the borough.

If you're concerned about opening the door to trick or treaters, you can display a 'No Trick or Treat' poster in your front window, which can be found below. It can also be downloaded from [www.swale.gov.uk/no-trick-or-treating-2019](http://www.swale.gov.uk/no-trick-or-treating-2019) or call **01795 417850** to request a copy.

We will again be setting up pumpkin recycling sites after Halloween in a bid to reduce the amount of food waste going to landfill. Pumpkins can also be left out next to your black and orange food waste bin on your collection day for collection. The pumpkin recycling sites will be located at Central Avenue Car Park, Sittingbourne, Rose Street Car Park, Sheerness and Central Car Park, Faversham from Friday 25 October to Sunday 10 November.

## Bonfire night safety

Fireworks will soon be lighting up the night's sky but remember to stay safe this Bonfire Night.

The safest and most responsible way to enjoy fireworks is to go to an organised firework display. But if you're planning a display at home, remember to follow the safety advice, which can be found on [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com), and make sure you know the law by visiting: [www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law](http://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law).

Sorry, no  
trick or treat



I will not open  
my door to you



*Please cut out and stick in your front door or window*

# Your councillors

For more information about your local councillor visit

[www.swale.gov.uk/find-my-councillor](http://www.swale.gov.uk/find-my-councillor)



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# Raybel restoration underway at Milton Creek

The restoration of a magnificent Thames sailing barge is getting underway.

SB Raybel was built at Milton Creek in 1920 by local shipwrights Wills & Packham. Now, nearly 100 years later, she is returning home so that the restoration can take place.

The three-year project, which has received funding from the National Lottery, will take place at Lloyd Wharf on Milton Creek, and will be a key component of a new heritage tourism and leisure site that is being developed by Swale Borough Council. It will bring Raybel back into full sailing condition, and into long-term community use.



*Launch of SB Raybel, Milton Creek – 1920*



*SB Raybel under sail.*

A sailing barge restoration has never been carried out in Sittingbourne before, despite the town's great heritage in barge construction.

The project will provide training for local young people. A programme of heritage activities has been planned and is being further developed in partnership with community organisations and local people.

The team is on the hunt for volunteers to work on the restoration itself, and also on these community activities – such as oral history, researching the history of the barge, archiving, and arts. If you are interested in volunteering, you can get in contact with the team by emailing [info@raybelcharters.com](mailto:info@raybelcharters.com) or through Facebook and Twitter [@raybelcharters](https://www.facebook.com/raybelcharters).

A 'Raybel Comes Home' celebration event, marking the arrival of the barge back in Sittingbourne after more than 50 years away will be held on Saturday 26 October. The free event will have music, barge tours and food at Lloyd Wharf.



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