

SWAN Salute to the 1940s Saturday 5th July 2025 Newtown Green Ashford.

Community Spirit Shines in 1940s Celebration Event

2025 is the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe and Victory in Japan, SWANCC wish to invite residents to celebrate the unity and joy that this has brought.

A unique event aimed at rekindling the vibrant community spirit of the 1940s is set to take place next July on Newtown Green. SWANCC are inviting all residents to immerse themselves in the culture and the uplifting music & dances, that defined the era .

The event, which SWANCC describe as a celebration of "a very special generation," will feature an educational component designed to provide insights into the historical significance of the 1940s. Attendees can look forward to engaging activities, that highlight the resilience and creativity of the community during challenging times. A Homefront exhibition will include fully fitted Anderson Shelters with guided talks on their use, Air Raid Warden demonstrations and much more. Providing an opportunity to remind ourselves of the strength of community.

With live performances by the Silhouettes and the Five Star Swing and Jazz Band of the era's beloved music and opportunities to learn traditional dances including the Lambeth Walk by the Lindy Hoppers, the event promises to evoke nostalgia while fostering a sense of togetherness. This event will emphasise the importance of celebrating the past and honouring those who contributed to the community's spirit during a pivotal decade.

Families can look forward to a wide variety of children's entertainment with Punch and Judy shows, face painting and circus workshops. Also, back by popular demand the Landtrain will again be running on the Green to remind us of the key role of Newtown Railway Works in the War effort.

On the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and Victory in Japan Day, this event is about more than just entertainment; it's a heartfelt tribute to a generation that came together in times of adversity.



In tribute to this there will be a Community Silence held in the middle of the Event to light the lamp of peace and reflect on the tremendous sacrifices that were made in the defence of this nation by those who lived and worked in SWAN.

With a street party style hospitality area being planned, local residents and families are encouraged to participate, making it a perfect opportunity to connect with neighbours and create new memories. Following the wonderful community attendance to the Vintage Railway Festival and the Platinum Jubilee, the event is expected to attract a diverse crowd, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the 1940s.

SWANCC will be sharing the schedule of activities, as this promises to be a memorable occasion that pays homage to a remarkable decade, with a true SWAN Salute to the 1940s.

Chairs' Statement

Dear Residents,

As your Council Chair, I am pleased to be able to share with you the Autumn 24 Edition of SWAN News.

In this edition there are some important updates and initiatives that reflect our commitment to enhancing our community and creating a vibrant environment for all. As well as updates on local community group events and their successes.

I am pleased to announce that we will be planting **7,000 spring bulbs along Riverbank Way**. This initiative is part of our effort to beautify our public spaces and promote biodiversity. The colourful display of daffodils, will not only enhance the natural beauty of our area but also provide vital habitats for local wildlife. We invite you to join us in this endeavour! Volunteer opportunities will be available, and we would love your help in bringing this project to life.

In addition, we are actively working on **No Waiting restrictions along Canterbury Road** to improve traffic flow and safety. This is a collaborative effort involving your local KCC and Ashford Ward Councillors, with SWANCC. Your input is invaluable as we aim to create a safer environment for everyone and your participation in the public consultations has been so helpful in ensuring a scheme that is fit for purpose and considerate of local needs.

Finally, I want to remind you of our commitment to transparency and community involvement. We will continue to hold regular meetings where you can voice your concerns and ideas. Please keep an eye on our website and community boards for announcements regarding these meetings.

Together, we are a thriving community that reflects our shared values and aspirations. Thank you for being an integral part of our plans and objectives.

Warm regards,

Sue Mullan

Cllr Sue Mullan - Chair SWANCC



Council Wishes Everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

As the festive season approaches, SWAN Community Council extends warm wishes to all residents, businesses, and visitors, hoping that everyone has a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

This Christmas, we hope everyone can take some time to reflect, relax, and cherish the company of loved ones. We also want to extend our gratitude to all those who continue to work throughout the festive period providing essential services.

SWAN D Day Beacon



The Boiler Engineer Ltd

The Lighting of the Beacon for the 80th Anniversary of D DAY on Thursday 6th June 2024, at Gas House Fields Allotments was widely supported with over 150 residents attending.



The Fish and Chips takeaway kindly organised by Gary and Tracy Taylor at the Alfred Arms was popular, an appropriate tribute to National Fish and Chips Day.

SWANCC would like to sincerely thank Mr Wayne Chapman and his Colleague Ronnie from The Boiler Engineer Ltd for the excellent service they provided free of charge to the Council in servicing and lighting the Beacon. SWANCC received a very professional and diligent service from start to finish and the Council is very appreciative of the friendly and thorough service received.

The Boiler Engineer

Serving the local community for over 25yrs, your local heating and cooling specialists for Gas - Oil - LPG & Air Conditioning

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Local Councillors Collaborate to Support No Waiting Restrictions in SWAN including Double Yellow Lines on Canterbury Road

In a united effort to enhance road safety and traffic flow, Kent County Council (KCC) Councillor Steve Campkin, Ashford Borough Councillor Al Arnold and SWANCC

Councillors have been working together to support the implementation of No Waiting restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) on Canterbury Road, Bath Road and Boys Hall Road.



With adjustments to the No Waiting restrictions (Double Yellow Lines) on Paper Lane with the Parking and Technical Dept at Ashford Borough Council.

Recognising the growing concerns about congestion and safety on local roads, the Councillors joined forces to propose measures that will restrict parking on Canterbury Road leading to Boys Hall Road, ensuring better accessibility for both vehicles and pedestrians. The collaboration highlights a commitment to addressing community needs through effective traffic management.

"We are dedicated to creating a safer environment for all residents and visitors in SWAN" said KCC Councillor Steve Campkin. "By implementing no waiting restrictions, we can significantly reduce congestion and improve the overall flow of traffic."

The proposed restrictions were distributed in a public pre-consultation allowing residents to share their opinions and suggestions. The community involvement in this process, emphasised the importance of local feedback in shaping the final plan.

Ashford Borough Councillor Al Arnold added, "This initiative is about more than just traffic management; it's about enhancing the quality of life in our community. We want to ensure that everyone feels safe and can move freely throughout the area."

SWANCC would like to thank all residents who took their time to share their thoughts and ideas about the proposed no waiting restrictions in the pre-consultation which allowed the Parking and Technical Officer to adjust the plan in response to resident feedback and submit this for formal consultation with the SWAN Community.

Together, the Councillors are committed to fostering a collaborative approach that prioritises the needs of the SWAN community, ensuring safer and more efficient roadways for all.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



The issues that I need to alert the SWAN Community to as we run towards Christmas remain much the same, plus some urgent fire safety advice.

Sheds, Garages, Allotment Sheds, remain at risk. Nothing must be left on show in parked vehicles, especially at night. Please take great care with vans that have tools and equipment left in overnight, these are a target.

The big risk facing us towards Christmas and then the January Sales will be the theft of internet shopping parcels off doorsteps.

First by a "chancer and opportunist" just walking by, however, now the risk is the delivery vans will be followed by thieves, so all properties could be at risk with deliveries left on doorsteps.

PLEASE MAKE SAFE DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS.

Alongside delivery thefts is the risk of **COURIER FRAUD** where parcels are delivered to your property. It may have the wrong name or a slightly wrong address but shortly afterwards a person arrives with a yellow jacket on and clip board and says "the delivery was a mistake and they have been sent to collect it". You are only too pleased to hand over the parcel and all is fine, until a bill arrives for a phone/laptop or other item the criminals have ordered.

FIRE SAFETY URGENT ADVICE

Leaving crime to one side I am going to raise awareness in the community of the risk of fires that can be caused by CHARGING OF E-SCOOTERS and ELECTRIC BIKES with faulty chargers or inferior cheap chargers.

A recent serious incident required the attendance of ten fire engines, a command support unit and a height vehicle, being sent to Salters Lane Faversham after the blaze broke out at 18 minutes after Midnight on Saturday 10th August 2024.

Over the weekend, it was confirmed a man in his 40s had died at the scene. It has since been revealed by the fire service that the cause of the "significant" blaze is thought to have been accidental and was "started by an e-scooter battery on charge"

DON'T FORGET TO JOIN NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
email peternew1@aol.com

Thank you

Peter New

Kent Police Volunteer
& Community
Neighbourhood Watch



Council Supports Progression of Newtown Works Monument and Memorial

SWANCC welcomed Mr Gerry Clarkson CBE, to its Full Council Meeting in September to discuss the progression of the Monument and Memorial for Newtown Works.



SWANCC recognises its significance to the community and its historical importance. This initiative aims to create a lasting tribute to those who gave their lives in the defence of this nation and honours the legacy of Newtown Works and its contributions to the establishment of South Willesborough, Newtown and the Borough of Ashford.

During the recent council meeting, members emphasised the importance of moving forward with the project, even if it must be developed in stages to accommodate site development implications. To ensure the project aligns with broader site development plans, the phased approach will allow for careful consideration of the surrounding environment while minimising disruption during construction.

The Monument and Memorial for Newtown Works is not just a project; it's a testament to our history and the spirit of our community, SWANCC are fully committed to supporting its progression. The Monument will serve as a focal point for residents and visitors alike, providing an opportunity for reflection and connection to the area's rich heritage.

Council to Plant 7,000 Spring Bulbs Along Riverbank Way

In an exciting initiative to enhance the natural beauty of the area, SWANCC will be planting 7,000 spring bulbs along Riverbank Way.

This significant planting project aims to create a vibrant display of flowers that will bring colour and joy to the community in the upcoming spring season.

The bulbs, which include a Pseudo-Narcissi Daffodils, also known as Lent Lily Daffodils will be planted in strategic locations to maximize their visual impact. The initiative not only beautifies the landscape but also supports local biodiversity and provides essential habitats for pollinators.

The planting of these bulbs is a wonderful way to brighten our community and enhance our green spaces, making Riverbank Way a more inviting place for residents and visitors alike.

This project is part of the council's broader commitment to environmental sustainability and improving local green spaces. As the bulbs take root and bloom, they will serve as a lasting reminder of the community's dedication to enhancing the natural beauty of Riverbank Way.



Sojan Joseph MP

Member of Parliament for Ashford constituency.



Dear residents,

As you all know, after being elected as your MP, I had stepped down from my role as your local councillor so that I could focus fully on the work both in Parliament and in the constituency. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support during my time as your councillor. I am grateful that I was able to work with SWAN CC to make some improvements in the ward and hope some of the unfinished work will be carried out to completion soon.

I also extend my gratitude to all those supported me in winning the general election and promise to work for all in our constituency as your MP.

I have already involved in efforts to improve access to mental health, GP, reduce hospital waiting times and improve infrastructure in and around Ashford.

I have opened my local constituency office right in the middle of the town centre where there is easy access via public transport to enable access to all. Also started regular surgeries across the constituency on Saturdays.

If any of you would like me to visit anywhere or want to meet me at my office / parliament, please contact me on sojan.joseph.mp@parliament.uk.

Kind regards

Sojan Joseph MP

Member of Parliament for Ashford constituency.

Alfred Arms Charity Day Newtown Green

We had a Charity Event on 24th August for Ronald McDonald House Charity and NICU at the William Harvey Hospital.

We chose these charities as close friends of ours have been staying in London with their baby since December. Without Ronald McDonald House charities they wouldn't have been able to stay with their baby.

Although the weather wasn't in our side we still managed to raise a total of £4499.40.

We would like to thank everybody that was involved including the singers who gave up their time to come and entertain us. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped on the day and to all that donated raffle prizes for this event it is much appreciated.

Thank you to all that came to support these charities hopefully the weather will be kind to us next year.

Kind regards

Tracey and Gary

Alfred Arms



Ward Councillor Thom Pizzey

As many of you will know, there has been a by-election for the Ashford Borough Council seat vacated by Councillor Sojan Joseph.

On October 17th I was elected to fill this vacancy and became your new Ashford Borough Councillor. Over the course of the by-election it has been a delight meeting so many of you and I couldn't be more grateful to have been elected to represent this wonderful community in Aylesford and East Stour. I would like to take a moment to thank Sojan for the work he has undertaken during his time in the role.

Just to introduce myself, my name is Thom and having been born in the William Harvey Hospital and lived in Ashford my whole life, so I am pleased to have the opportunity to give back to this town which I call home. I have already begun working on your behalf, taking up the issues you have told me about, such as access to recycling and finding out the answers you need from the council. I look forward to working with you.

If you want to get in contact, I am available on email, phone and social media. My email is thom.pizzey@ashford.gov.uk; you can phone me on 07881718976, or you can catch me on Facebook by searching for @TPizzeyAshfordGreens.

*A message
from*

**KCC Cllr
Steve
Campkin**



I am pleased to announce that parking problems will be addressed over the holidays with yellow lines in Canterbury Road but extra parking provided in Paper Lane. This was after ABC parking stepped in to work with SWAN CC and KCC.

We also have the Bus Service Improvement Plan around Newtown which will involve yellow lines on corners and pinch points. This will cause a little inconvenience to residents but will make it easier for buses, dustcarts and, importantly, fire engines and ambulances, to get around.

At County Hall I continue to represent you all with regards to concerns over health, education and the general maintenance of our roads. The proposed closure of waste centres has now been paused, and we will be scrutinising next years budget over the next couple of months.

In the meantime, enjoy the festive season, read Peter News' article about festive security and celebrate responsibly.

KCC Cllr Steve Campkin

Ashford East



SWANCC Grant contributions 2024

Community Heartbeat: SWAN Centre Receives Grant for New Defibrillator

In a significant boost for local health and safety, the SWAN Centre has been awarded a grant of £825 from the SWANCC to fund the installation of a new community defibrillator.



The grant aims to enhance emergency response capabilities in the area, ensuring that lifesaving equipment is readily available to residents and visitors. The defibrillator will be strategically located within the SWAN Centre, making it easily accessible in case of cardiac emergencies at the hall.

"This defibrillator will not only provide peace of mind for our community but could also save lives in critical situations."

The initiative reflects a growing commitment to improving public health resources and promoting community safety. This grant represents not just a financial investment but a community commitment to health and safety, reinforcing the idea that preparedness is key in emergencies.

Funding Boost for Cygnet Parenting Programme to Support Families with ASD

In a positive development for local families, a grant of £500 has been awarded to local charity initiative by We Are Beams, to support the Cygnet Parenting Programme, a vital resource for parents of children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD). This funding will help ensure that families receive the guidance and support they need to navigate the challenges associated with ASD.



The Cygnet Parenting Programme is designed to empower parents by providing essential knowledge and practical strategies for understanding their child's unique needs. The comprehensive curriculum addresses a variety of crucial topics, including:

- What is Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)?
- Effective communication techniques
- Managing sensory issues
- Understanding behaviour patterns
- Coping strategies for challenging behaviours

This programme is invaluable for families, offering insights that can make a real difference in their day-to-day lives. The funding allows the programme to continue in SWAN in helping parents build a supportive community while equipping them with practical tools."

For more information about the Cygnet Parenting Programme, including registration details, visit wearebeams.org.uk

Salvation Army Holiday Programme Awarded £2,000 Grant to Support Local Families

The Salvation Army Summer Holiday Programme was awarded a grant of £2,000, aimed at providing activities and community lunches for families in the SWAN community during the Summer Holidays .

The grant helped fund a range of initiatives designed to ensure that families can enjoy the holidays, with regular activities and community lunches. The Holiday Programme included meals, entertainment, and activities for children, creating a welcoming environment for families to come together.



The Salvation Army plays a crucial role in our SWAN community, and this grant has helped them continue their invaluable work. SWANCC applaud their efforts to support and strengthen families and encourage community togetherness.

As the holiday season approaches, the Salvation Army is actively seeking volunteers and donations to further enhance their programmes. Community members interested in contributing or participating are encouraged to reach out to the Salvation Army for more information.



5 steps to become better prepared

STEP

1

Make an emergency grab bag – consider:

- Torch
- Keys
- Medication
- First aid kit
- Toiletries
- Important documents
- Radio and batteries
- Money and credit cards
- Clothing and blankets
- Mobile phone and charger
- Pet food
- Food and water
- Emergency contacts



STEP

2

Make a 'Household Emergency Plan'

Make an emergency plan for your home and practice it with your household. Your plan should include: contact numbers, how to turn off your gas, electricity and water, and sources of information and advice.



STEP

3

Sign up for weather and flood alerts

- Sign up for Met Office weather alerts: www.metoffice.gov.uk
- Get Environment Agency Flood Warnings: www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings



STEP

4

Check your flood risk

Check your home's flood risk by visiting the Environment Agency website at www.gov.uk/check-long-term-flood-risk



STEP

5

Join the Priority Services Register

The Priority Services Register is for customers who may need additional support in a utility outage. Find out if you or a relative is eligible to sign up for this free service by visiting www.thepsr.co.uk



Scan the QR codes for more information or visit
www.kentprepared.org.uk/5-steps

Are you
emergency
ready?

Kent and Medway
prepared



202408-029

Ashford Salvation Army Church

Hi from all at The Salvation Army, It has been such a busy summer that I wanted to update you on our adventures.



We ran our yearly "Summer Fun" programme, which aims to help local families for who summer holidays might be difficult. As a parent myself I know only too well how long the holiday can feel and the endless worry of being able to do something fun, feed the kids and keep it all going for 6 whole weeks.

This year we were again able to offer a package of activities that included crafts and drop ins at the hall, BBQS, games days and many dinners! Our Kids Club holiday club week was a huge success and we had an amazing time getting to know the children. We even held our very own sports day in Sevington Park.

Most excitedly we were able to offer local families a chance to join us on some amazing trips and activities, which included Battle of Hastings 1066 experience, Chatham Dockyard and of course "Beach Church." After a very busy and very exciting summer of fun, we ended with an epic coach trip which took 139 people to LEGO LAND!



Here at the Salvation Army, we believe in the old saying "it takes a village" and one of the aims of our summer events is to create a space where that village can be built. Every family deserves opportunities to connect and flourish and have some good old-fashioned FUN! It was amazing to see the friendships and connections being built in a supported environment and therefore able to create long lasting memories for families.

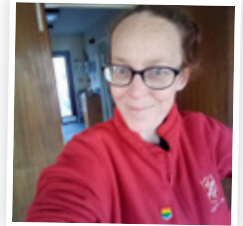
We are very blessed with an amazing volunteer team who give up their time to do impossible and wonderful things every summer and we are thankful to have received generous funding towards the cost of the programme from SWANCC and support from the Salvation Army's Mission Support Fund, without this support it would all be impossible. Offering these opportunities, we seek to level inequalities, strengthen families and build communities.

Lauren and the Team



Hellos and Goodbyes

SWANCC are very glad to welcome Cllr Lauren Corbett who joined the Council in September this year.



Cllr Lauren Corbett with her extensive knowledge of SWAN and its local residents will be a tremendous asset to the Council. As Cllr, Lauren will be supporting the Communications Committee and Finance Committee of the Council as well as the Councils' calendar of events.

SWANCC would like to congratulate Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan on her recent marriage in August 2024.



The summer wedding was attended by Chair Cllr Sue Mullan, Cllr David Mullan and Community Council Manager Sarah Evans. It was a beautiful wedding at Waldorf Hotel in London which was preceded by a Civil Ceremony at Hever Castle. Cllr Nirosha Thilagarajan supported SWANCC from its inception and acted as Chair for the Allotments Committee, Environment Champion and Editor for the SWAN Newsletter. Nirosha has now left SWANCC to begin married life in London. SWANCC wish Nirosha every happiness and is immensely grateful for her commitment and support to this Council and the community of SWAN.

SWANCC would like to express its grateful appreciation of Cllr David Smith for his term of Office at SWANCC.



Cllr David Smith has long served the area as Ward Councillor, a term of Office as Mayor and now as a Community Councillor with SWANCC. Within SWANCC Cllr David Smith has brought a wealth of knowledge to the Planning and Highways Committee and SWANCC are very appreciative of his support of the Council and its local objectives during his term of Office.

SWANCC does have vacancies for Parish Councillors and welcomes all ages and backgrounds to its Community. It is an A Political organisation and does not align itself with Political Parties to ensure that it is local matters and local residents interests put first in all that the Council does.

If you would be interested in joining SWANCC please contact the Community Council Manager either by email clerk@swancc.org.uk or telephone 01233 528933

SME Employers: Get mental health support for your employees and apprentices



able
futures

At Able Futures, we're dedicated to helping small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and the self-employed navigate mental health challenges.

Did you know... mental health issues lead to approximately 70 million lost workdays in the UK each year, costing employers around £2.4 billion? Many smaller businesses lack the resources to provide adequate mental health support, but we're here to help! .

Able Futures delivers the Access to Work Mental Health Support Service on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions. The support service is fast, flexible and, best of all, there is no charge to use this service.

Who can access Able Futures?

- Anyone in paid employment (including apprentices and those signed off sick)
- Aged 16 and over and a resident of the UK
- Experiencing symptoms of a mental health condition (diagnosed or undiagnosed)
- Productivity, attendance, or general wellbeing at work affected by those symptoms

What we offer

- Able Futures provides nine months of confidential, no-cost support from mental health professionals to help employees manage conditions such as anxiety, depression, or stress while maintaining work performance.
- The service offers resilience-building support rather than counselling, with no need for a doctor's referral or waiting list – Access our support within 30 days of making your referral!
- Participants are paired with a qualified Mental Health Coach (MHC), who may be a member of the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy or trained in related fields, offering practical guidance and support across England, Scotland, and Wales.
- Support extends to employee partners and family members aged 16+ in various employment situations.

- The service complements existing wellbeing strategies, with referrals to additional resources like Employee Assistance Programmes or counselling/therapies if needed.
- Able Futures is funded by the Department of Work and Pensions and delivered by Ingeus to support employee mental health.
- 24/7 access to our brand new wellbeing platform "ELE"
- Neurodiversity Screening Tool access where appropriate
- Personalised 1-on-1 support tailored to your needs
- 100% confidential and secure

Already have an EAP? Able Futures offers a different approach with longer-term, less intrusive, person focused support, focusing on building a healthier future. We can seamlessly work alongside your current mental health provider at no additional cost.

To find out more on how we can support you and your workplace please contact us via this link:
www.able-futures.co.uk/mental-health-support-for-employers/apply

Or to self-refer to the programme please call us on freephone 0800 3213137 or apply online at www.able-futures.co.uk

Together, let's create a healthier, happier workplace!

Living Workshop Gas House Fields Allotments

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council formally launched its Living Workshop Guide to the Living Workshop in Summer 2024.

Timed to coincide with the 2024 National Allotments Week Open Day at Gas House Fields Allotments.

The Living Workshop is a 1 perch plot at the entrance to the allotments, previously unused for 40 years making it the most neglected area on the site. It has been turned from a wilderness into a cultivated area and fully cropped all within the first 12 months.

During its preparation 3 workshops were run to discuss digging methods, compost methods and planting. The crops grown weighed in at 100 kilos, these were then distributed to the local Salvation Army for use within the foodbank for all residents in the area.

Now in its third year the Living Workshop Plot has Volunteers who were attracted from the Local Duke of Edinburgh Scheme achieving their Silver Award, along with volunteer time from SWANCC Staff. Year 1 provided a harvest of 100 kilos and Year 2 a harvest of 200 kilos of vegetables all of which were donated to the local foodbank for distribution to those who really needed a helping hand. The harvest for Year 3 was timed to begin with the National Allotments Week Open Day. Visitors were able to assist with the harvest of the vegetables, support a 'Grand Weigh In' and then take the vegetables home to eat.

For many of the children visiting, it was the first time they had actually harvested vegetables from the ground. It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and excitement with them harvesting the vegetables. A real "grow your own" experience.

The Living Workshop Guide launched in August 2024, is the bespoke written guide to allotmenting at Gas House Fields Allotments.

During the first 12 months every step of the Living Workshop process was documented and photographed, from this the Living Workshop Guide was then drafted. This created a final 40-page written guide with photographs of every step of the process, including tools, composting, winter and spring digging, crop rotation, plot maintenance, health and safety advice; including managing water safely to prevent legionnaires and legionella disease, using non-glyphosate weed killer, and harvesting. Along with a clear guide on managing costs and materials. Also, with site- specific advice for Gas House Fields Allotments, its particularly challenging heavy clay soil, widely open site and susceptibility to club root and other challenges.

For the launch of The Living Workshop Guide, exhibition boards were set up for visitors to the National Allotments Week Open Day to view the guide, with before and after photos. It was very inspiring with professionally printed copies of the guide made available. This attracted 10 new tenants to sign up for an Allotment from the Open Day.

The Living Workshop plot is a model of exactly what is expected for cultivation and health and safety and has been a Living Example of the standards required for Gas House Fields Allotments. It also served as a model of the Dig for Victory Spirit at the lighting of the D DAY 80th Anniversary Beacon. The produce harvested has served the local foodbank with to date 300 kilos of locally grown healthy fresh vegetables. The Living Workshop guide has given new tenants a flying start and supported the requirements of the terms and conditions of allotments. There is new interest in allotmenting in South Willesborough and Newtown and as ever nature reminds us that as seasons come and go there is always joy ahead.

Sarah Evans

Community Council Manager



Gas House Fields

Allotments Open Day for National Allotments Week

SWANCC were delighted to hold its first open day at Gas House Fields Allotments. Over 40 residents visited the Allotments to chat, learn about growing and visit the site. New tenants were signed up with more added to the waiting list.

Originated by The National Allotment Society – for over two decades National Allotments Week has encouraged allotment holders to throw open their gates and show off their sites, to highlight the social, health and environmental benefits of UK allotments. 2024 marks the 22nd year of the campaign which ran from 12th to 18th August. This year, the week focused on ‘biodiversity’ to highlight the environmental benefits of allotments.

To celebrate the week, Gas House Fields Allotments site threw open the gates for a Community Open Day on 16th August 2024.

From 4pm – 5pm the Salvation Army Summer Holidays Club were invited to a workshop session on Biodiversity. Activities included building the SWANCC Bug Hotel, planting wildflower seeds in the raised beds, crafting biodegradable pots and planting these with wildflower seeds to take home.

However, the highlight of the visit was the opportunity to harvest the Living Workshop plot culminating in a “Grand Weigh In” of the harvest.

For some children this was the first time they had harvested vegetables directly from the ground, and their excitement was immense.

The results of the “Grand Weigh In” are below, the vegetables were then given away to the visitors throughout the Open Day to enjoy.

Grand Weigh		
Vegetable	Weight in lb	Weight in kilos
Potatoes	37	16.8
Green Beans	4.4	2
Runner Beans	8	3.6
Beetroot	2.2	1
Grand Total	51.6lb	23.4kg
Plus		
Courgettes	14	
Marrows (very large)	4	
Cucumbers	3	

Allotments are an amazing place that teach people about growing. They encourage healthy living and provide an important biodiverse habitat for wildlife and pollinators”.

Allotments are acknowledged by Natural England as an important part of the UK ‘Green Infrastructure’ – a network of crucial green spaces that support wildlife, improve air quality, promote health and mitigate carbon emissions.

For more information, visit the National Allotments Week website for details:
<https://www.thenas.org.uk/national-allotments-week>



Supporting the SWAN Salute to the 1940s Celebration



Swan Rescued After Wandering on Canterbury Road

A swan found wandering on Canterbury Road has been rescued thanks to the quick actions of local residents, Cllr Lauren Corbett and Rob Saunders from Ashford Salvation Army.



The swan, seen straying along the busy road, was initially spotted by Councillor Lauren Corbett and local volunteer Rob Saunders.

The duo quickly arrived on the scene and, along with residents, managed to safely guide the swan away from the traffic. Recognising the need for professional help, RSPCA and Kent Wildlife Rescue services were unable to assist, however resident Gerry, from Canterbury Road was fortunately able to contact Sarah from British Divers Marine Rescue (BDMR) who kindly responded to the call, carefully collecting the swan and transporting it to a nearby rescue centre for care.

Updates over the weekend confirmed the Swan was receiving good care and eating well. SWANCC would like to thank everyone who helped to protect the Swan.

SWANCC are thrilled to be hosting another community event on Newtown Green with preparations in full swing for "The SWAN Salute to the 1940s."

Bringing the Community together for a special community celebration is always a worthwhile and an enjoyable day for everyone in SWAN.

The success of these events hinges on the participation of the whole community and the help of volunteers.

Gathering local history

For the SWAN Salute to the 1940s, SWANCC are asking residents if they have any stories, details or articles on how Victory in Europe Day and Victory in Japan Day were celebrated here in South Willesborough and Newtown? If you do have information that would help with researching these significant events please do contact the SWAN Office by email clerk@swancc.org.uk and telephone 01233 528933.

Facilitating the Event

To facilitate the set up of the event SWANCC will need around 30 volunteers to help with setting up tables and chairs, festoon poles and gazebos and display exhibits.

If you can help with the event set up team, from 8am to 10am, on Saturday 5th July 2025, please contact the SWAN Office by email clerk@swancc.org.uk and telephone 01233 528933.

South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council

Trade Unit 8, Invicta Business Centre,
Orbital Park, Ashford, TN24 0HP

01233 528933 / clerk@swancc.org.uk
www.swancc.org

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